

Hafa Adai!

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Fire destroys San Vicente home



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety investigators conduct their investigation into the fire that engulfed the house of postal employee Sonny Flores in San Vicente early yesterday morning. No one was reported injured in the blaze.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire of still unknown cause destroyed the four-bedroom, semi-concrete house of postal employee and golfer Sonny Flores located in front of San Vicente Elementary School early yesterday morning.

» **Flores, wife, 2 grandchildren managed to get out safely**
» **First fire of the year; damage a complete loss**

See **FIRE** on **Page 4**

Obama to tests his sway against GOP-run Congress

By **JOSH LEDERMAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama this week

will test whether he still has the sway to keep Washington focused on his own priorities, even as a new Republican-run

See **OBAMA** on **Page 4**



AP

President Barack Obama, right, with his daughter Malia Obama, waves as they arrive at the White House in Washington, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, from a family vacation in Hawaii.

GIAA: Facility plan for SMA use still in development

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

A “critical piece” of making possible a facility for Star Mari-

anas Air at the Guam International Airport lies with Guam Customs and Quarantine and Agriculture, which will oversee the facility's inspection area,

according to GIAA administrator and spokeswoman Rolenda Faasuaamalie.

In an interview last week, she described GIAA's role simply

as “landlords” who help prepare facilities for airline use.

She said a dialogue and exchange has been ongoing in re-

See **GIAA** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan Computer Services thanked loyal patrons and customers with their 2014 Customer Appreciation Raffle last Friday morning.

» **PAGE 6**



NATION

Sailor Gutzler, the 7-year-old girl who survived a plane crash, walked a mile through the cold, dark woods to safety

» **PAGE 14**



LIFE & STYLE

Stuart Scott's fight against cancer ended Sunday when the longtime “SportsCenter” anchor and ESPN personality, known for his enthusiasm and ubiquity, died at age 49.

» **PAGE 19**

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Local

Inos suspends Wiseman's order for partial payment of \$200K to estate heirs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos has suspended Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman's order concerning the partial distribution of \$200,000 to the heirs of an estate, that received a grand total of \$2.8 million from the government for just compensation over the taking of property and rental payments.

In an order issued last Wednesday, Inos said the high court finds the circumstances in this matter warrant a partial stay of Wiseman's Dec. 23, 2014, order granting partial distribution of Rita Rogolofoi estate's money pending resolution of petitions for writ filed by attorney Brien Sers Nicholas.

Nicholas, served as counsel for Rogolofoi's estate's then administrator Enrique Sema.

In his petition for a writ of mandamus, Nicholas asked the high court to issue an order mandating Wiseman to vacate his Dec. 23, 2014, order granting partial distribution and administrator's and attorney's fees.

In the same petition, Nicholas also requested the court issue an order mandating Wiseman to issue an order directing the administrator and the heirs to return to the estate of Rita Rogolofoi all funds received in light of the Dec. 23 order.

In his petition for a writ of prohibition, Nicholas requested the

high court to prohibit Wiseman from issuing any further orders in the estate pending the full and complete resolution of Nicholas' claim before the high court.

In the Supreme Court's order last week, Inos further ordered that current estate administrator Clarence "Bud" White file an answer to the petition on or before Jan. 21, 2015.

Inos invited the Superior Court to file an amicus brief (friend of the court) by the same date.

An amicus curiae is a brief filed in court by an entity who is not a party to the case.

Nicholas filed the petitions for a writ last Dec. 29 because of Wiseman's Dec. 23 order.

In that Dec. 23 order, Wiseman denied Nicholas' ex parte request to the court for a hearing for approval of a joint motion of a settlement of his claim for attorney's fees.

Ex parte refers to an application to the court by one of the parties to the action without the other party being present or heard.

Wiseman said regarding the underlying joint-settlement motion, for him to schedule a hearing to entertain a post-decision settlement on the very issue he ruled upon is without judicial precedent.

"In viewing the history of this claim, the court is bewildered as to how settlement is proper after this court already awarded damages," the judge said.

Wiseman said that, on Dec. 17, 2014, after reviewing

Nicholas' and the administrator's briefs, and after receiving oral arguments, he issued a published order finding that there was no valid contingent fee agreement and that the lawyer was entitled to an award of \$99,256.76, for a grand total award of \$170,263.01.

Wiseman said Nicholas now brings this ex-parte motion requesting that the court shorten the time for a hearing to bring a joint-settlement agreement proposal before the court after the court issued an order on the very issue of claimant's (Nicholas) attorney's fees.

In the Dec. 17 order, Wiseman found not reasonable Nicholas' request for payment of \$782,363.74 in legal fees for representing then-administrator Sema.

Wiseman, however, determined that \$170,263.01 is the reasonable fee and ordered the estate of Rita Rogolofoi to pay an additional \$99,256.76 to Nicholas for his legal services.

The judge said \$99,256.76 is the retainer agreement fee balance after deducting the \$71,006.25 previously paid to Nicholas.

In finding that Nicholas' requested recovery of \$782,263.74 was not reasonable, Wiseman ruled that Rita Rogolofoi's heirs have not approved the contingent fee agreement between the lawyer and then estate administrator Sema.

Wiseman said the retainer agreement, as twice amended,

does not contain a valid contingent fee agreement.

In his petitions for a writ, Nicholas said in the Dec. 23, 2014 order, Wiseman pointed out that he issued the order after having reviewed the accounting he ordered from the administrator.

"It is interesting to note that, in said accounting, the administrator basically informed Judge Wiseman also that the settlement reached with petitioner (Nicholas) regarding petitioner's claim was in the best interest of the estate," Nicholas said.

Nicholas said per the administrator's counsel, Stephen Nutting, Wiseman was not interested in approving the settlement.

Nicholas said prior to the filing of the joint motion in this case and with his (Nicholas) consent, Nutting attempted his best to have the settlement approved but to no avail.

He said therefore by mutual agreement, the administrator through its counsel, Nutting, and him (Nicholas) on Dec. 23, 2014, submitted a joint motion for approval of said settlement to Wiseman along with petition submitting the necessary pleadings to try to have an expedited hearing on the same.

He pointed out that on the same day, Dec. 23, 2014, Wiseman denied the expedited hearing sought for the approval of said settlement.

Nicholas asserted that he is entitled to have his claim fully heard not only by Wiseman, but

also by the high court, before any distributions are made to the heirs.

Nicholas said he has suffered irreparable harm given that there exist great likelihood that the funds that could be used to pay his claim are now in the hands of the heirs with the danger that the same will not be recovered.

"To begin with, while the administrator was willing to settle petitioner's claim, Judge Wiseman refused," Nicholas said.

Nicholas said until the high court has pass judgment on his contingency fee claim, no distribution to any heirs is permitted as a matter of law.

Nicholas said the high court has yet to pass judgment on his contingency fee agreement in this case.

Yet, he added, Wiseman proceeded to grant the administrator's renewed request for distribution to the heirs contrary to the legal mandate of the statute.

On Wiseman's note that a post-decision settlement has no judicial precedent, Nicholas pointed out that to the contrary, it is not uncommon for settlement to be reached after a trial, whether bench trial or a jury trial.

Nicholas said the high court's own rules allow for post judgment settlement while an appeal is pending.

According to court records, in November 2004, then-administrator Sema retained the services of attorney Nicholas to represent him in Rita Rogolofoi

estate's probate matter and in the separate, but related action, the Board of Marianas Public Lands Authority versus the heirs of Rita Rogolofoi.

On May 12, 2009, the Superior Court entered a judgment in favor of the administrator in the quiet title action, awarding the heirs to the estate of Rogolofoi fee simple ownership and titles to two lots containing some 33,927 square meters.

The heirs were also awarded a total of \$2,690,020.07, which represented "just compensation" for certain government takings and rental payments collected by the Department of Public Lands, plus nine percent post-judgment interest.

The total judgment award plus post-judgment interest came out to a grand total of \$2,844,566.64.

Pursuant to the retainer agreement and negotiations with the administrator, Nicholas sought 30 percent of the grand total recovery for a total sum of \$853,369.99 in attorney's fees.

Nicholas then filed a petition for instructions, requesting that the court address the matters regarding the remaining balance of his attorney's fees claim in the amount of \$782,363.74.

But Wiseman said Nicholas failed to overcome the presumption that the subsequently entered contracts between Nicholas and administrator were invalid.

VISITING SHIP

DENNIS B. CHAN

Saipan welcomed the arrival of *MS Asuka II* on Dec. 31, 2014. The ship included 875 tourists to the island and 488 crewmembers. They stayed for a one-day visit and as per tradition, the Marianas Visitors Authority greeted the visiting ship with a local dance troupe during docking.



Inos returns local bill for not being specific

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos vetoed a line item from a recently passed bill by Saipan lawmakers, for not describing a “specific and public purpose” for its appropriation.

Inos returned House Local Bill 18-63, D2, approved and disapproved in part, in a letter to Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation and the House of Representatives on Dec. 31.

The bill would appropriate \$3.672 million from revenues

to be generated from poker fees for fiscal year 2015. Inos vetoed line-item Section 2(B)(2) which set “\$200,000 to be equally distributed to each Precinct.”

Inos wrote that all of the line items in the bill are for “specific and public purposes” as required by law, except for the

vetoed line item.

He said this line-item “merely states that ‘\$200,000 to be equally distributed to each Precinct.’”

He explained that “a precinct is not an entity or program upon which funds can be bestowed upon,” unlike, for example, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance which was appropriated \$3 million by the bill.

Inos also said that the item does not state a specific purpose or any purpose at all for what the expenditure authority is to use the funds for.

“This makes it impossible for the expenditure authority to determine whether the funds are being extended for a proper and public purpose as required by law,” Inos’ stated.

Because of these reasons, Inos returned the bill approved and disapproved in part.

HLB 18-63 allocates \$3.1 million for SHEFA, with \$100,000 of that for SHEFA operations.

The bill also allocates \$105,000 to patients of the Medical Referral Program who have already expended their \$50,000

limit; \$75,000 to the Saipan Little League Baseball Association; \$50,000 for the Tipieew Cultural Village; \$30,000 for the Saipan Zoning Office; \$30,000 for the paving of a section of Mt. Tapochau Road; \$20,000 for the 2015 Liberation Day activities; \$15,000 for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival; \$12,000 for the procurement of two Port-A-Cool 36” evaporator cooler units; \$10,000 for the NMI Crime Stoppers; \$5,000 for the Agricultural Fair; and \$5,000 for the Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

Orsini graduates summa cum laude at UoG

Vinni Giovanni Flores Orsini graduated from the University of Guam on Dec. 21, 2014, with a Bachelors Degree in Public Administration and with highest honor, “Summa Cum Laude” with a class of 263 graduates.

Orsini has done significant

achievements during his studies: Graduated from Marianas High School, Saipan, in June ‘2012; enrolled in the university at age 17, Fall ‘2012; graduated from UOG at age 19; is currently the elected student regent to the University of Guam, Board

of Regents.

He is the youngest ever elected in the 30 years of elections as a student regent at age 18; is the first ever elected student regent from the CNMI to sit in the University of Guam’ Board of Regents as well. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
University of Guam recent graduate Vinni Giovanni Flores Orsini poses with his proud parents, Andrew and Bertha Flores Orsini.

New chiller on the way for public market

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A new chiller is on the way to help keep fresh the produce in the Garapan Public Market, according to CNMI’s Farmer Co-operative Association treasurer Ike Concepcion, who along with other co-op officials help run the market.

Earlier co-op president Maria ‘Frica’ Pangelinan expressed that a lack of a chiller to keep produce from rotting was one of the problems the market faced since it opened last August.

In September, the market had asked for funds from the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation to help address operational costs and a chiller.

The delegation heard the market’s needs when they appropriated \$60,000 for the market last month. Concepcion said the market has ordered the new chillers in advance.

In regards to the appropriated “seed money,” co-op secretary Isidoro Cabrera said yesterday morning that he aimed to deliver to the secretary of Finance a letter for the disbursing of this money.

“We are starting to have improvement [in the market] already,” he said. “We purchased in advance the cooler...as soon


as we get the money we can pay the company,” he said.

The chiller was ordered from a local supplier.

In related news, Cabrera said they aim to have an election of officers at their general mem-

bership meeting this month on Jan. 13, barring any changes in member’s schedules.


They had planned one for last month but decided to postpone because of the holidays, he said.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Board Meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC’s Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Garapan Annex RFP
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
- V. LEGAL COUNSEL’S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VII. OTHER MATTERS**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
TOM GLENN A. QUITUGUA
Vice Chairman of the Board

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Intoxicated man allegedly assaults wife with stick, wine bottle

For refusing to give him money an intoxicated man allegedly beat up his wife and struck her with a piece of wood and empty wine bottle at their residence in San Antonio last week.

The alleged victim looked very frightened and sustained multiple bruises on the body, bump on the head, and her right hand was bleeding when a responding police officer met her,

according to a police detective.

Andrew Albert Sablan Indalecio, 52, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$6,500 cash bail for Indalecio's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on Friday at 9am.

Police Detective Maverick M. Saures stated in his report that last Dec. 30 at 8:01pm, Department of Public Safety Central received a call from a woman, reporting that her husband Indalecio was drunk and beat her up.

Saures said a responding police officer met the alleged vic-

tim, who was walking along the shoulder of the roadway toward San Antonio Market.

According to the alleged victim, when she and Indalecio came home after buying food at a store, he asked for money.

She told him that she does not have money anymore because they already spent it on food. When he insisted for money, she asked why he needs money.

Indalecio allegedly started cussing at her so she ran into the restroom and locked the door. The defendant, however, broke the door and started punching and kicking her on the arms and left leg.

Indalecio took a stick from parts of a wooden door and started hitting her with it on her arms and shoulder.

The defendant allegedly grabbed an empty wine bottle and struck it on her head. As he

was picking up the broken bottle, she ran out to use the phone to call for police's help.

When Indalecio found out she was calling the police, he told her he was going to divorce her and that he would run away from the house.

A doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center advised the alleged victim to return to the hospital the next day for an X-ray of her injuries, police said. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

BOE inaugural meeting next Monday

The CNMI State Board of Education will inaugurate members Herman T. Guerrero and Florine M. Hofschneider next Monday, Jan. 12, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The event begins at 8am.

It will be comprised of a 13th CNMI State Board of Education

regular meeting and the 14th State BOE inaugural meeting.

In the regular meeting, board member Lucia Blanco Maritia and Guerrero will be recognized for their service by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan.

Maratita, an outgoing member of the board, is slated to deliver her outgoing remarks. The

recognition and swearing in of incoming members Guerrero and Hofschneider will follow.

The inaugural meeting of the 14th CNMI State BOE will begin after. An election of officers is scheduled in this meeting.

Derwin C. Johnson and Yvonne R. Pangelinan are slated as master and mistress

of ceremony. Posting of colors will be led by Kagman High School JROTC Battalion, and the CNMI and National anthems will be sung by the Marianas High School Glee Club.

In last November's elections, Hofschneider claimed the BOE spot for Tinian from opponent Martin Sakisat. Guerrero was the sole candidate for the Saipan representative to the board. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

Manglona orders detention of Songsong

The federal court has ordered the detention pending trial of Vincent Masga Songsong, a man arrested by federal agents for allegedly having in his possession a laptop that contained child pornographic materials.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found that the U.S. government had met its burden by clear and convincing evidence that there exists no condition or combination of conditions of Songsong's release that will reasonably assure the safety of another person and the community.

Manglona remanded the defendant into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The judge cited the nature and circumstances of the offense involving the visual depiction of a minor who had not attained 12 years old engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Manglona also noted the

weight of the evidence against Songsong, which includes his two detailed admissions and his seized computer and cell phone.

The judge also cited the defendant's predatory conduct of conducting surveillance and photographing minors all around the island.

Jury trial of Songsong will be on May 26, 2015.

Songsong, who is represented by counsel Colin Thompson, pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of child pornography.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the jury trial for Feb. 2, 2015.

According to the indictment, from Feb. 17, 2014, until Feb. 25, 2014, Songsong knowingly possessed a laptop computer containing visual depiction of a child less than 12 years old engaging in sex. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Registration for PSS Distance Education Program now open

CNMI PSS Distance Education Program would like to announce that Online Spring 2015 Registration is open. All secondary students from public and private schools are allowed to register with counselor approval.

Important dates

■ Last day to register is Jan. 30, 2015
■ Last day to withdraw is

Feb. 6, 2015

■ Semester starts on Feb. 1, 2015

■ Semester ends on May 23, 2015

Students can register at www.goo.gl/4L3GUB

If you have any questions, please contact the school counselor or email distance.education@cnmipss.org. **(PR)**

GIAA

From Page 1

gards to Star Marianas' interest in conducting scheduled commuter and on-demand services between Guam and the CNMI.

"It has been communicated to Star Marianas that a critical piece of making this facility possible lies with the Guam Customs and Quarantine and Agriculture—in particular regard to the inspection area and its operation and allocation of resources to process arriving passengers and cargo," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said this project is ongoing in consultation with parties of interest to ensure all concerns are addressed.

The facility plan is still in development, she added.

Once the regulatory parties

have approved the proposed inspection area, GIAA will consult with Star Marianas and other operators on the common use facility, she said.

From there GIAA will prepare a bid package for construction and renovation for this facility, and the successful bidder will be subject to the building permit process thereafter, she said.

Saipan Tribune earlier learned that the proposed facility is a vacant warehouse type space and rooms suitable for offices. It would need to be entirely renovated for Star Marianas' use.

The timeline for renovation, according to Faasumalie earlier, is "entirely dependent upon the consensus of regulatory parties to the design, and subject to the Government of Guam procurement procedures for solicitation of construction services."

OBAMA

From Page 1

Congress descends on the Capitol eager to take him on.

Fresh off a two-week vacation, Obama immediately began ramping up for his State of the Union address—his best chance to set the agenda for 2015 on his own terms. Obama will roll out new executive steps and proposals for Congress this week on home ownership, higher education and manufacturing jobs—a similar menu to the one Obama has offered in years past.

Republicans have an entirely different blueprint for the start of the year. In full control of Congress for the first time of Obama's presidency, they planned an all-out offensive against his policies on immigration, foreign policy and the environment.

In a sign of their divergent paths, just as lawmakers arrive in Washington to start the new Congress this week, Obama was heading out of town. He planned to spend most of the week in Michigan, Arizona and Tennessee showcasing how his own economic policies are fueling the

economic recovery.

The State of the Union comes early this year, on Jan. 20, and it is Obama's first with Republicans in control of both House and Senate.

Obama's speechwriters have been crafting the speech for weeks, both in Washington and in Hawaii, where the president spent two weeks on the golf courses and beaches of Oahu with his family and a handful of friends. The White House has been also been reaching out to Democratic-aligned policy groups to solicit input on the speech.

In Detroit on Wednesday, Obama planned to tout the return of manufacturing jobs and his decision to bail out the auto industry. In Phoenix the next day, Obama was to showcase gains in the housing sector since the real estate crash and unveil new steps to help Americans buy a home, the White House said. And on Friday, Vice President Joe Biden will join Obama in Tennessee to discuss new ways to help more people attend college or get job-training.

As Obama closed out 2014, he was visibly energized by a string of high-profile presidential moves in the last six

weeks of the year. Following brutal midterm losses for Democrats, Obama's actions on Cuba and immigration suggested he still retained some relevance, and Obama said he intended to carry that momentum into 2015.

Yet since the midterms, the key question has been whether Obama will lean in or away from compromise with Republicans in his final two years.

Of the issues the White House said Obama will emphasize in the coming weeks, none were among the handful of areas that both Democrats and Republicans have cited as ripe for compromise—like trade, tax reform and infrastructure.

Eric Schultz, Obama's spokesman, said the president this week will announce both executive steps he plans to take and proposals to work with Congress on legislation. Those proposals will focus on ways to help the middle class benefit from the economic recovery, he said.

"There are a number of issues we could make progress on, but the president is clear that he will not let this Congress undo important protections gained—particu-

"So I just opened the door in the kitchen and went back and woke up the kids and we went out," she said.

Mrs. Flores said it's the first time a fire broke out at their house since they moved there 27 years ago.

She said fire investigators are still trying to figure out what caused the blaze.

Alvarez said information gathered showed that the occupants were awakened by heavy smoke and fire within the house, prompting them to contact DPS.

DPS Fire Division responded to the house, which is located along Isa Drive after receiving a call at 4am.

Alvarez said police and fire personnel were immediately dispatched to the area.

She said the first arriving units—Medic 5 and rescue unit, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE)—arrived at the scene at 4:07am.

Alvarez said fire engine 2 from Kagman Fire Station arrived at 4:15am and immediately initiated suppression efforts.

She said fire engine 1 from San Roque Fire Station came at 4:25am to assist engine 2 with water relay.

Alvarez said the fire was fully suppressed at 5:04am.

It is the first fire incident in the CNMI for 2015.

FIRE

From Page 1

Flores and his wife Annie along with their two grandchildren, ages 11 and 13 years old, managed to run safely out from the house.

Department of Public Safety Fire Division spokesperson Jocelyn Alvarez said no persons were treated on scene for any medical complaints in relation to the fire.

"The cause of the fire is still under investigation," Alvarez said, adding that fire investigators classified the extent of the damage as "a complete loss."

Annie Flores said they were

not able to get any of their appliances or valuables.

"I'm just glad that we all made it out. I'm just thankful to the Lord that we survived," said Annie Flores in a phone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

After the Flores couple was awakened by smoke in the house, they checked where the smoke came from, then they woke up their two grandchildren.

"I didn't see any flames, but only smoke in the house," Mrs. Flores said, adding that she went all the way to the kitchen to check, but that she cannot even see their refrigerator and freezer because of the smoke.

Lions Clubs to hold Health Fair this Sunday

The Lions Clubs International, District 204, Region 2 will hold its annual Health Fair this Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015 from 8am to 12pm at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The health fair is open to the public. The services include blood pressure testing, sugar/glucose testing, vision screen-

ing, eye pressure test, diabetes awareness campaign, cancer awareness and general health awareness and distribution of reading glasses for its sightfirst program on a first-come-first-serve-basis only or while supplies last. For those who will avail the sugar/glucose test you are required for fasting prior to the check up. These services

were provided by volunteers from CHC Nurses, Hardt Eye Clinic, the Guam Marianas Lions Club (GMLC). We are still encouraging other health companies to join for the said medical mission.

Thank you to all our donors: TSL Foundation, Lion Joe Digno of Graphics, Lion Nelida Atalig of Don Pedro Res-

taurant, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Zone chair Lion Mario C. Mayuga, Lion Eli Arago, and Region 2 PRO Lion Anna-mae Adaza. Those who wish to donate especially bottled water, please call the Region 2 chair Lion Ladyvir Canape @ 989-2545 or Region 2 Secretary Lion Olive Yana @ 233-3854 and Zone chair Lion Ma-

rio Mayuga @ 285-1021.

These LCI-D204 Region 2 Lions Clubs comprises of Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club, and Rota Marianas Lions Club.

Our District officials from Guam will join the medical

mission headed by District Governor Daniel Yang, 2nd Vice District Governor Linda Tolan, and other Guam Lions clubs members.

Public Relation Officer Lion Adaza said, "the medical mission is an annual event that is part of the Region 2 Lions Club's community services." (PR)

Cook named Bank of Guam EVP



HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam board of directors, management, and staff are pleased to announce the promotion of Joaquin P.L.G. Cook to executive vice president, chief sales officer. Cook is also a member of the bank's board of directors.

Cook joined the Bank of Guam in 2001 following his graduation from college, and completed the bank's manage-

ment training program. He was assigned to the bank's credit department, serving as a loan officer for three years. In 2004, Cook then attended and graduated from the University of San Diego Business School in San Diego, and returned in 2006, joining the Commercial Banking Group, the bank's corporate loan area. In 2009, Cook was named assistant vice president/Upper Tumon Branch before

being promoted to vice president/Compliance Department Manager in 2011.

Cook is a 1997 graduate of St. John's School, and graduated from the University of California at San Diego with a B.S. in management science in 2001. In addition to his Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from

the University of San Diego (2006), he attended and graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington in 2011.

Cook serves on the board of IP&E Holdings, LLC, as well as the St. John's School Board of Trustees.

For more information, please contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. (BoG)

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Bank of Guam offers \$10K in college scholarships

»5 awardees to receive \$2,000 each plus paid summer internship

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is pleased to announce that applications are now available for its 2015 IFIT Scholarship Program, which makes \$2,000 available to five graduating high school seniors to attend a U.S.-accredited four year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the Bank's branches.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

1. Reside in Guam, the CNMI, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;

2. Be high school seniors, Class of 2015 (copies of transcripts and SAT/ACT scores required);

3. Submit the original, numbered application by March 3, 2015 to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Marketing Department;

4. Submit three (3) letters of

recommendation, one from a reference of choice; and

5. Submit answers to four (4) essay questions.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year, U.S.-accredited college or university. Eight (8) semifinalists will be selected by April 2015 and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four year college or university.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches, Customer Service Department in Hagatna Branch, and the Marketing Department. They have also been distributed to local and neighboring island high schools. Only originals will be accepted.

Please contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258, or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com for any information. (BoG)

SCS holds customer appreciation raffle

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Computer Services thanked loyal patrons and customers with their 2014

Customer Appreciation Raffle last Friday morning. Top prizes included a Samsung 60" Smart LED TV, an Apple Mac Air, a Lenovo Touchscreen all-in-one PC, and a

GoPro camera.

This was the raffle's third year. Janet Sablan took home the grand prize—the Samsung 60" Smart LED TV—with ticket number 3299.

The grand prize came as a complete home entertainment package, with a surround sound system included. The prize was worth \$1,938, according to SCS.

For their major prizes, Bobby Coldeen won first prize, with ticket number 3280. He took home the Apple Mac Air 11".

Aiyana Celis took home the Lenovo Touchscreen AIO PC,

» **Sablan wins Samsung 60" Smart LED TV with complete home entertainment package**

with ticket number 0582, for the second top prize, and Valerie Camacho won the GoPro camera, with ticket 2550, for the third top prize.

In fourth, Arnel Gorospe won an Acer Netbook 11". Bill Hofschneider won a Bose Bluetooth speaker, Ignacia Aldan won an Acer Tablet, Robert Torres won a SkullCandy headset, and Jenny Villagomez won an HP Deskjet printer, for the rest of the top prizes.

Another eight customers won a Kingston 32 gigabyte USB drive for the minor prizes. Another eight took home consolation prizes—a SanDisk 8GB USB drive.

A raffle ticket came with every \$25 purchase at Saipan Computer Services.

Coast Guard conducts medevac from fishing vessel near Oahu

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard medically evacuated a 29-year-old man suffering chest pains approximately 92 miles southwest of Oahu, Sunday.

An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point safely hoisted the man from the fishing vessel, Lady Karen at 7:21 a.m., and transferred him to Queens Medical Center in Honolulu at 8:03 a.m.

The crew aboard the Lady Karen contacted watchstanders at Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu at 5:25 p.m., Friday, regarding medical assistance for an ailing crewmember with a heart condition.

A Coast Guard flight surgeon was consulted and recommended a 12-hour communications schedule with the Lady Karen. The man's condition continued to worsen and the Coast Guard flight surgeon recommended a medevac based on the reported symptoms.

Once the vessel was within range the medevac was conducted. Four Dolphin helicopters provide service to the Main Hawaiian Islands. The Dolphin has a range of approximately 300 miles and is operated by a crew of four.

For more information, contact the 14th Coast Guard District public affairs office at (808) 535-3230. (USCG)



▲ From left, Saipan Computer Services sales department staff Bryan Joseph Fabre, grand prize winner Janet Sablan with her daughter, and SCS Operations Department staff Mary Grace Delos Santos pose following the grand raffle drawing of SCS' 2014 Customer Appreciation Raffle last Friday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

◀ Aiyana Celis, third from right, won the Lenovo AIO PC in Saipan Computer Services' customer appreciation raffle last Friday morning. DENNIS B. CHAN

► Saipan Computer Services staff and patrons pose for a photo after SCS' annual customer appreciation raffle. DENNIS B. CHAN



As the 33rd Guam Legislature dawned with its inaugural ceremonies held in Hagatna Monday morning, Senator Rory J. Respicio, who will continue as its Majority Leader, expressed the need to cooperate with the executive and judicial branches of our government.

Senator Respicio said that he will personally work with the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, public auditor, mayors and vice-mayors and all his senatorial colleagues in order to achieve those initiatives which address the priority areas of our government.

“My hope is that the new Legislature will be respectful of

Guam Sen. Respicio pledges continued cooperation

Gov. Eddie Calvo’s mandate in the last election, but also mindful of our collective responsibility to provide a reasonable check and balance for the executive branch. I also recognize that the Judiciary remains an important element in maintaining the separation of powers between the branches of government.”

Senator Respicio is the chair of the agenda-setting Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, Human and Natural Resources, Election Reform and Capitol District,

and he offered a preview of his own legislative plans as the legislative body moves forward.

“My focus will be on advancing all aspects of Guam’s relationship with the federal government, improving recycling programs, advancing the military buildup, and strengthening the health care system by reducing the time it takes for doctors and pharmacies to be paid by the government and health insurers,” Respicio said.

“I am looking forward to a very productive year with this new Legislature. I am grateful that the people of Guam have given me another opportunity to serve in this capacity as a senator, and affirm my commitment to working with all of Guam’s people.”

For more information, please contact Senator Respicio’s office at 472-7679. (PR)



CHCC CEO SPEAKS Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna makes her comments on Senate Bill 18-52, which seeks to change the CHCC’s advisory board into a governor board during last Tuesday’s House of Representatives’ session in Capitol Hill. Muna opposes the bill, which was referred to the House Committee on Health and Welfare for further review.

MARK RABAGO

PIC named 2015 Saipan Sportsfest official host hotel

Pacific Islands Club Saipan has been named the official host hotel of the 2015 Saipan Sportsfest, according to race director Eric Tydingco.

“PIC has such a great history of supporting Saipan Sportsfest, and we are thrilled to have them on board again this year,” said Tydingco. “We are looking forward to working with PIC to make 2015 the best Sportsfest yet!”

Saipan Sportsfest includes two events, the Tagaman triathlon, scheduled for March 22 and, and the XTERRA Saipan Championship, scheduled for March 28.

“PIC Saipan has been a huge supporter for both of these signature events since their inception,” said Glenn Policare, PIC director of sports, entertainment and activities.

“Many of the off-island athletes have expressed that coming to compete in Saipan is akin

to coming home. We are excited to work with PIVOT in hosting some of the world’s best triathlete’s once again.”

Athletes and visitors traveling to Saipan for the Sportsfest are eligible for deep discounts on rooms and meal packages. Rooms start at \$100 (plus 15 discount tax) and meal options can be added for as little as \$19 per day.

“PIC offers those coming to Saipan a comfortable and convenient place to stay and train for Sportsfest,” said Policare. “These discounted rooms are limited, so we advise all athletes and visitors to book their reservations well in advance.”

For reservations and hotel information, contact the PIC reservations departments at (670) 234-7976 or reservations@pic-saipan.com. For more information on Saipan Sportsfest, visit saipansportsfest.com. (PR)

McCreadie pursues construction of new prison in 33rd Guam Legislature

In light of the Office of Public Accountability’s (OPA) report regarding the state of the Department of Corrections, Senator Brant McCreadie continues his pursuit of a new prison facility as a senator in the 33rd Guam Legislature with the introduction of Bill 5-33 (LS) also referred to as “The Department of Corrections Construction Initiative Act of 2015.”

“We started this movement in 2013 based on the outcries of all stakeholders and the overall need of a safe prison facility. It is unfortunate that no action was taken on Bill 172-32 in the 32nd Guam

Legislature. In this new term as Senator I will continue to push forward for the construction of a new prison facility for the overall safety of the island community. We want a prison that is not only safe to house our prisoners, but safe to work in. We want a prison that can punish and rehabilitate. We want a prison that is constitutionally functional so that we will no longer face the cloud of federal receivership.

For more information, please contact the office of Senator Brant McCreadie at 472-3462/3 or via email at senatorbrantmccreadie@gmail.com. (PR)

CTF-75 to hold establishment ceremony

ASAN, Guam—Commander, Navy Expeditionary Forces Command Pacific (CTF-75) will hold an establishment ceremony at Camp Covington on U.S. Naval Base Guam at 10 a.m. Jan. 9.

Rear Adm. Frank Morneau, Commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, will provide opening remarks and Vice Adm. Robert Thomas, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, will be the event’s guest speaker.

CTF-75 executes operational command and control of assigned Navy Expeditionary Combat

Forces within the 7th Fleet area of operations for crisis response and major combat operations.

As a task force for the U.S. 7th Fleet, it provides the fleet with coastal riverine, explosive ordnance disposal, diving, salvage and construction capabilities, and expeditionary intelligence and logistics in near-shore waters, littoral regions and inland areas.

The Navy’s expeditionary forces exist first and foremost to support the fleet’s warfighting operations and are the Navy’s sea-to-shore interface. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES				
By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the LEAC charge depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the “Mean of Platts Singapore” or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5% of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge. Due to a decline in average fuel prices, CUC is able to reduce the fuel-charge by 16.93%. Accordingly, the LEAC rate has decreased from \$0.23616 per kWh to \$0.19617 per kWh , effective January 1, 2015 .				
BASE RATES				
	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1 Monthly Customer Charge	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.06
2 Base Rates Per kWh:	KWH LEVELS			
1) 1 to 350	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$ 0.1070
2) 351 to 1,200	\$ 0.0970	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$ 0.1070
3) 1,201 and over	\$ 0.1580	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$ 0.1070
3 Infrastructure Surcharge				
Per kWh -- all usage	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.0210
4 Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate)				
Per kWh -- all usage	\$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A	N/A
*Municipal Pumping				
LEVELIZED ENERGY ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (LEAC) RATE				
	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
New LEAC Rate (Effective 01/01/15)	\$ 0.19617	\$ 0.19617	\$ 0.19617	\$ 0.19617
Previous LEAC Rate	\$ 0.23616	\$ 0.23616	\$ 0.23616	\$ 0.23616
*Municipal Pumping				
PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF				
Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.				
Energy Charge: The energy charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable electric base rate and LEAC rate.				
Fixture Charge: See below.				
FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH	
1 Long Arm	250	101	\$	11.67
2 Short Arm	175	71	\$	8.33
3 LED	140	57	\$	10.83
ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES				
1 Late Charge (monthly)				1% of Past Due
2 NSF Check / Returned Check Charge			\$	40.00
3 Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments)*			\$	1.50
4 Unauthorized Connection*			\$	550.00
5 Reconnection at the Pole*			\$	200.00
6 Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)*			\$	210.00
7 Disconnection Notice			\$	15.00
8 Meter Change Out			\$	95.00
9 New Service - Single Phase			\$	135.00
10 Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)			\$	90.00
11 Meter Test - Single Phase			\$	75.00
12 Meter Test - Three Phase			\$	110.00
13 Disconnection at the Meter			\$	45.00
14 Reconnection at the Meter			\$	60.00
Non-Rate Fees Effective 04/17/14				
*Non-Rate Fees Effective 08/03/14				

Naval Hospital Guam welcomes New Year baby

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Guam, located where America's

day begins, officially welcomed the first military baby of the New Year, 2015, at 11:55 a.m.

on New Year's Day.

Weighing in at 7 lbs, Davion Jhayce Tudela was welcomed

to the world by his loving father, Dean, who is a Specialist with the Guam Army National Guard; mother Sheralynn, and big sister, who just reached a year and a half, De-Shiah.

Davion is not only the Tudela's first son, but also the first birth witnessed by his father, who was deployed last year to Afghanistan and was not able to attend the birth of his daughter. "Everything went smoothly and I was so glad to be a part of

this," said Dean.

To commemorate this special occasion, the command's Oakleaf Club association and Commanding Officer, Capt. Jeannie Comlish, presented the Tudela family with a special gift basket that included baby toys, diapers, blankets, books and other items.

The Oakleaf Club includes Medical, Dental and Medical Service Corps officers' spouses and is active in promoting community awareness and support-

ing staff members and beneficiaries at the hospital through charitable projects.

The Tudelas are looking forward to whatever the future may hold, although according to Sheralynn, she thinks they will wait just a little longer next time before planning for their next baby. For now, the Tudela's are a complete family and the best part, according to them, is simply that they are together to celebrate. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam's Oakleaf Club association presents the facility's New Year Baby, Davion Jhayce Tudela, with a special gift basket. Bbay Davion was born at 11:55am on New Year's Day.

Sorcery killing in PNG capital mars otherwise peaceful New Year

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier)—Tragedy has befallen the Okapa block at Six-Mile in Moresby Northeast, after an elderly couple from Okapa in Eastern Highlands Province was brutally killed for allegedly practicing sorcery.

The killings yesterday marred a quiet New Year's for the capital, Metropolitan Superintendent Andy Bawa said.

The suspects are understood to be from the same block as the couple and investigations are being carried out and the bodies are now at the Port Moresby General Hospital morgue.

"The murders of the couple

are inhumane, unwarranted and unacceptable," said Mr Bawa. "And I condone the taking of a

» Elderly couple's murder 'unacceptable' says superintendent

human life, especially in the New Year; we will be working hard to arrest the attackers."

Sorcery-related killings had been frequent in the Highlands region last year but this is the time first time such killings have been reported in the nation's capital where law-makers are seriously contemplating the death penalty for sorcery-related killings of women.

Mr Bawa did not provide further details of these extrajudicial killings, adding they were the only serious crime reported in an otherwise quiet Wednesday

and Thursday.

"The murders are the only major incident that has been reported, but there were a few drunkards who we were able to control, other than that, the city were quiet," he said.

Mr Bawa commended city residents for their well-behaved and quiet celebrations, adding his policemen and women should also be praised for their hard work in ensuring peace and goodwill prevailed.

"I want to commend the police personnel for their hard work and restless nights. They have ensured the city and its residents are safe," Mr Bawa said. "The Australian Federal Police personnel are to be thanked also for their assistance and for their work in 2014 and for their continuous support in 2015."

A. Samoa seeks US help with alternative energy initiatives

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News)—Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has shared with Esther Kia'aina, the new Interior Department's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, the high cost of utilities, as well as water quality problems faced by American Samoa.

Lolo is seeking Interior Department's support for current alternative energy initiatives by the government that are being spearheaded by the American Samoa Renewable Energy Committee (ASREC).

Renewable energy was among the many issues cited in the governor's letter to Kia'aina last month. He noted that the high cost of utilities is impacting the administration's efforts to achieve its economic and social development goals and objectives. The governor has been pushing for renewable energy projects to move forward in an effort to reduce the cost of electric and water service in American Samoa. The governor noted that electric costs fluctuate between 40 and 45 cents per kilowatt and this is "a major disincentive and deterrent to businesses and economic development expansion."

Regarding water, he said the cost of water is just as expen-

sive, although water quality is not up to standards. "Residents and businesses are forced to subsidize the cost of water caused by water system loss of 60% to 70%," he explained.

Lolo said the high cost of utilities limits the disposable income of residents and profitability of businesses, causing suppression of consumption and stymieing economic development growth.

According to the governor, American Samoa needs Interior Department to help with current alternative energy generation initiatives—such as solar, geo-thermal energy and liquefied natural gas.

The administration is expected to share additional information soon with DOI's Office of Insular Affairs. Lolo is also expected to address these specific issues on alternative energy at next month's opening of the 34th Legislature when he delivers his State of the Territory Address.

Last year, the American Samoa Energy Action Plan was published and it identifies key strategies that can be implemented in the short term to help achieve fossil fuel reductions.

The priority strategies are: strengthen the institutional capacity of ASREC; make Manu'a

100% renewable by 2016; deploy more wind and solar on Tutuila; assess geothermal on Tutuila; and assess hydropower.

The plan includes specific actions, timelines, performance metrics, and the party or person responsible for implementation of each strategy. Details of the plan were submitted last year to OIA, which has it available online under the OIA/NREL Territorial Energy Program column. Other details can be found on: www.asrec.org

Bond issue

The governor also shared with Kia'aina some of the pressing development problems that the administration has targeted for bond issues, through the American Samoa Economic Development Authority.

He said ASEDA would issue bonds to secure funds to repair the dilapidated public highways, construction of the container wharf as well as construction of the marina in Malalao.

Another major project is the relocation of the jet-fuel tank farm at the Pago Pago International Airport. Lolo said the jet fuel farm is hazard-prone and unsafe, adding that relocation of the jet fuel will unlock Federal Aviation Administration funding of over \$50 million.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 6, 2012

Woman accused of attacking husband out on bail

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed yesterday the temporary release of a 32-year-old woman who allegedly attacked her husband with hot frying pan and burned his shoe. Camacho modified his previous order that required Carmelita Guiao to post a \$5,750 cash bail, allowing her to go free on a \$5,750 in unsecured bond. Camacho released Guiao to a third party custodian and imposed several bail conditions. The judge said the court should take into account the nature and seriousness of the offense, character,

associations, and community ties of the defendant, her bail record, and the strength of the evidence and other factors.

Ex-convict indicted for As Teo shooting

A federal grand jury has indicted an ex-convict who reportedly assaulted a relative and fired a handgun in As Teo last year. The indictment charged Justin A. Funkugub with felon in possession of a firearm; possession of a firearm with a removed, altered, or obliterated serial number; and felon in possession of ammunition. According to the indictment filed Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Funkugub was caught in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38-caliber revolver on Oct.

11, 2011. The revolver's serial number had been removed, altered, or obliterated—a violation of U.S. Code, according to the indictment filed by assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe. That same day, Funkugub also allegedly had with him six Winchester Super-X .22 caliber bullets.

January 6, 2004

Salty water due to overdrilling, wrong piping

Saltiness of water on Saipan is not really due to its close proximity to the sea, but due to overdrilling and improper well development, authorities said. Capital improvement project management consultant and CNMI water task force member Charles Jordan said existing wells on the island are generally over pumped. He said wells also do not follow standard depths and size. "Wells are over pumped," he said, noting that it

can be solved by focusing on well optimization, which is listed as among the first seven priorities by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain a 24-hour water supply on the island. "Well optimization will address this area, making sure the wells' proper depth and size," he said.

Babauta concerned over Fed's decision to cut BTS funding

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has expressed concerns about the CNMI being placed at greater risks for the dreaded brown tree snake infestation following the federal government's move to reduce its funding for BTS containment program on Guam in FY 2004. He said this has resulted in the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services-Guam readjusting its programs. "It has come to my attention that FY 2004 funding for BTS programs will limit the amount of control efforts on Guam...the result of the readjustment will

put the CNMI, as well as Hawaii, at even greater risk for an accidental BTS introduction," Babauta said in a December 18, 2003 letter to U.S. Navy Secretary Gordon R. England.

January 6, 1999

Reyes urges staggered bonus release

The chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee has suggested that the CNMI government release the 30 percent lump sum bonus for some 110 retired employees in staggered payment to give leeway in raising enough funds. Rep. Karl T. Reyes acknowledged that it would be difficult for the administration to meet its obligation to civil service employees who have opted to retire in recent months to avail of the retirement benefits. But he said these retirees should be able to reflect their actual annuity despite failure to receive the cash bonus equivalent to 30 percent

of their annual salary.

PSS to relocate students to DanDan

Close to 500 students from different schools are scheduled to be transferred to DanDan Elementary School next month. While transfer plans are made, it is not certain yet if the current funding of the Public School System will allow recruitment for this new school scheduled to be completed in February. "PSS is looking at its existing resources, like how the central office can help its administrative side. At this juncture, we are not in the position to certify bringing in new teachers," said acting fiscal and budget officer William Matson. There were 12 positions approved for DanDan in the fiscal budget, however, the payroll deficit makes recruitment difficult. Key officials are suggesting the transfer of some teachers to DanDan, particularly those coming from the five schools which are sending students off.

Island Snapshots



COUNTDOWN PARTY
Over 200 guests attended the New Year's countdown party hosted by Mariana Resort & Spa last New Year's Eve. The countdown party had all the works from cultural dances, pop group entertainment, great food and drinks, and a \$3,000 fireworks display.

MARK RABAGO



Tourists and residents alike take photos of the fireworks display at Mariana Resort & Spa.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

The Mariana Resort & Spa iconic wedding chapel is lit up from the \$3,000 fireworks display of the Marpi hotel.



HYATT DONATION
Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa holds a giant check representing the Garapan landmark's \$10,000 donation to the Ayuda Network, Inc. The hotel also donated \$20,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa and The Salvation Army pastor Wayne Gillespi hold a giant check representing the Garapan landmark's \$10,000 donation to The CNMI Salvation Army. The \$40,000 donation in total are proceeds from the 19th Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW YEAR'S SHOPPING
Tourists and local residents alike make their last-minute shopping on Dec. 31, 2014 in preparation for the New Year.

MARK RABAGO



RECYCLING TRASH BINS
Sorting trash bins donated by island businesses are located along the Saipan Beach Pathway. The public is advised to sort and drop trash in their proper containers for recycling. More trash bins are also needed from generous sponsors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CROWDED HOUSE
Those in support and opposing Senate Bill 18-72 crowded the House of Representatives visitors' gallery last Tuesday. The bill seeks to establish a public charter school for adult vocational and continuing education that will be named the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

MARK RABAGO

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

US still has a role in Afghanistan

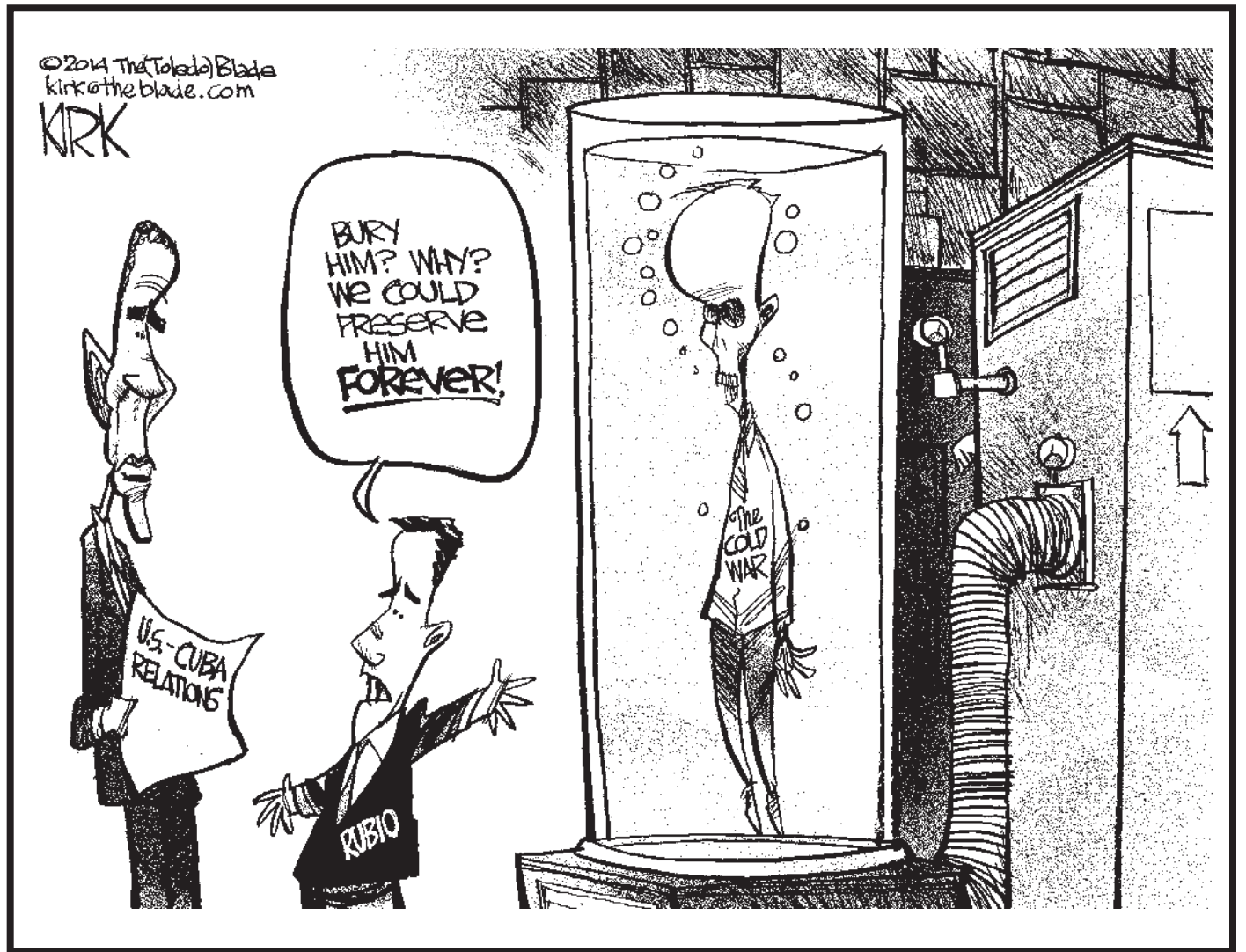
After 13 years of war, more than 2,300 dead U.S. troops and the replacement of the Taliban regime with an elected government, the United States this past weekend declared a formal end to its combat mission in Afghanistan. That's an important symbolic marker, but no one should interpret the declaration as the end of anything. Some 10,800 U.S. troops remain behind to train and support the still-young Afghan military. Surviving Taliban forces — which operate with relative impunity from the lawless border region of Pakistan — have been mounting fresh attacks, making it clear that the fighting will continue. The best that can be hoped for is that the Afghans take over the job of defending themselves and their government, allowing the U.S. presence to diminish.

Unfortunately, we saw in Iraq what can happen when a new government — and its new military — isn't quite ready to stand on its own legs. Pro-Shiite policies by then-Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki exacerbated sectarian tensions with the nation's Sunni population, fanning mistrust and weakening the central government's authority. The Iraqi military then collapsed — in some cases, turned tail — as the Islamic State insurgency expanded from the Syrian civil war into Sunni-heavy northwestern Iraq, where the extremists found some support among people who saw the barbaric invaders as preferable to the Iraqi government. Al-Maliki was replaced as prime minister by Haider al-Abadi, who has sought to be more inclusive, but the damage is done. President Barack Obama, while pledging not to send ground troops back to Iraq, has ordered U.S. air missions to try to rout the extremists.

Lesson learned, we hope. The U.S. is right to take precautions, including leaving behind a small force, to avoid a similar failure in Afghanistan, where, if anything, the history and regional divisions pose an even bigger challenge than in Iraq. But there are caveats. Any time military force is deployed, there is the danger of mission creep, and that is certainly to be guarded against in Afghanistan. The U.S. led the coalition invasion in October 2001 to root out Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network of terrorists, and to topple the Taliban regime that had given them cover. Bin Laden is dead, and although al-Qaida and the Taliban are gone from positions of power, they are not vanquished. Should the Afghans suffer defeats at their hands, the temptation to escalate the U.S. role will be powerful but should be tempered by the recognition that the primary goals in the conflict have been met.

Still, the U.S. has a responsibility to continue helping Afghanistan move to a more independent and self-sustaining government. That's not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is in the United States' national interest. As the world was reminded in 2001, instability creates haven for terrorists. A stable Afghanistan makes for a safer world.

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Dys 2015

We are playing with images here.

Thomas More (1478-1545) wrote "Utopia" in Latin, with a long title: *Libellus vere aureus, nec minus salutaris quam festivus, de optimo rei publicae statu deque nova insula Utopia*, which translates, "A truly golden little book, no less beneficial than entertaining, of a republic's best state and of the new island Utopia".

He obviously was not short on self-confidence! It was, of course, fiction, though from its well-known title "Utopia" alone, we get the Greek "ou" (not) and "tupos" (place), so "utopia" is "not an actual real place" but a frolic on the imagination.

Thomas More is known for literally losing his head when he refused Henry VIII's ascendancy to head the Church of England against the Vatican that opposed Henry's cohabitation with Anne Boleyn; Thomas was tried and found guilty of treason.

A "dys" in our title refers to dystopia (an imagined place or state where everything is bad like a totalitarian regime or an environmentally degraded one), opposite to utopia though when H. G. Wells in 1905 used the term in *A Modern Utopia*, (best known for its voluntary order of nobility known as the Samurai that could effectively rule a "kinetic and not static" world state) he was overly dreaming.

"Dystopian" in common reference points to *We* by the Russian Yevgey Zamyatin published in English in 1924, the *Brave New World* 1931 of Aldous Huxley's sci-fi, the drug culture in Karin Boye's classic Swedish *Kalocain* of 1940, the *Nineteen Eighty Four* (1984) of George Orwell in 1949, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* in 1953, and *A Clockwork Orange* of Anthony Burgess in 1962.

Related but distinct, "dys" also refers to the dysfunctional anything in contemporary English literature. The popularity of the following names comes from their colorful description of the dysfunctional nature of individual and family life, and societal and global arrangements.

The first five are sources of fiction and faction: Norman Mailer, John Updike, E.L. Doctorow, Alex Haley, and John Irving. Alice Walker is known and John Kennedy Toole, Chuck Palahniuk, William Kennedy, and Don DeLillo hold up their own literary candles.

I added the following to the shopping list of a North America friend for her next trip to the secondhand bookstore in case I she puts a care package together: David Foster Wallace, Cormac McCarthy, Charles Frazier, Michael Chabon, Jonathan Franzen, Richard Russo, Jeffrey Eugenides, T.C. Boyle, Tim O'Brien, Jonathan Safran Foer, Thomas Pynchon, and Dave Eggers.

The anti-hero theme of Joseph Conrad influenced D. H. Lawrence, T. S. Eliot, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Gerald Basil Edwards, Ernest Hemingway, Graham Green, William Golding, William S. Burroughs, Joseph Heller, Italo Calvino,

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



Gabriel Garcia Marquez, J. G. Ballard, Chinua Achebe, John Le Carré, V. S. Naipaul, Hunter S. Thompson, J. M. Coetzee, Stephen Donaldson, and Salman Rushdie. Like Toni Morrison, Barbara Kingsolver and Philip Roth, some in the list graced my bookshelf at one time or another.

OK, I have not read the works of some of those I listed, but as an English teacher, it is often well to be able to pretend, as if . . .

"Dys" is, however, our interest, particularly on whether we stay that way again this year, our choice. I decided on the offerings of what is real, what IS rather than what-could-be of wishful thinking, or the what-if of utopian dreaming. Dysfunction and dystopia are popularly chosen perspectives to reality, perhaps a pretention of a heart broken once too many times, or a head-trip of thinking what is fashionable, rather than the gut-trip of actual living.

The four human sources of discourses are our senses, emotions, thoughts, and action. People find it easier to see the glass half-empty (e.g., victim's news precedes that of victors); I am not promoting a Pollyanna focus on seeing how it is half-full, I would rather that we just look at the glass!

Reality TV has been bashed as being short on reality and full of TV. The critique is unkind, but perhaps, appropriate to the commercial requirement of the media. We know that documentaries are scripted and are hardly spontaneous but to pretend that Reality TV is all unedited is unreal!

A roommate at an Institute was fond of saying, "it's a matter of attitude". He made Solicitor General of the Philippines later; his phrase stuck with me a long while.

Dystopian and dysfunctional novels deal with "real" things, but the perspective choice is a matter of attitude. The long count on the authors mentioned foregoing attests to this choice of perspective as more academically respectable, and sells more copies at the bookstand!

We hold this truth to be self-evident that life is better lived "well" rather than it "sucks", a choice, a matter of attitude! Perhaps, it is time to shift our brains back to experience (sense) and resolve (action) and leave emotions and cognition to the privacy of their internal states of being. Dys, I believe!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Kill Senate Bill 18-52!**

It has been awhile since I last wrote anything of interest about any center of attention because my computer crashed out on me. I have to borrow a friend's computer to write what I think about Sen. Bill 18-52. As a patient that is recurrently admitted into CHC, I feel duty-bound to express my views about Sen. Bill 18-52.

When the new Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was created by law, it was also outfitted with an advisory board that is invented to advice the management of our healthcare facilities. That was good, and in everyone's mind, we thought that the board members themselves should at the least posses a certain bare minimum degree of health management educational penetration for them to deliver sound advices to the management of the corporation. This present advisory board of CHCC leaves us with so much to be desired.

I am appalled when I learned that a lame duck Senate hastily passes a very critical bill that has to do with the health and medicinal needs of the people of the Commonwealth. First of all, I asked myself why the Senate has to pass such a tremendous health-related bill without even conducting a public hearing to listen to what the people in the community has to say publicly about it.

I am afraid that with the passage and the ultimate bill (SB 18-52) being signed into law, more doctors and nurses and other critical staff members of the CNMI's lone hospital will leave in droves because it is predictable as to what will happen next just as soon as the CHCC's advisory board becomes a full govern-

ing board. CHCC will be practically owned by chairman Mr. Joaquin Torres and his vice chairman Mr. Pedro Dela Cruz. No! Not in the hands of these!

Do you remember when the existing board was appointed and chairman Mr. Joaquin Torres took a tour of the hospital and he had cussed his way through all the doctors using profane language from his own lips? Do you remember when he particularly went into the ER section of the hospital and started bullying the doctors? Can you count how many times he became out of order during official meetings including the most recent one at the House chamber of the 18th Legislature? Do you see how he made public spectacle of himself treating the current management of CHCC as a regime instead of working together amicably to find solutions? He was very busy promoting his own agenda of becoming the first governor of CHCC!

Joaquin and Pedro insulted Dr. Sherleen Osman calling her a liar. But where were Joaquin and Pedro when Dr. Osman and Ms. Esther Muna were busy transforming CHC's Dialysis Center into one of the best in the region and to the approval of CMS? Where were they? And time again, I would ask, where were they? Shame on you Joaquin and Pedro for thinking that you can even disrespectfully conduct and promote your agenda violating the rules of congress when you show-cased your attitudes unbecoming of a public official in front of the members of the 18th Legislature.

The federal team that came to assist the hospital during its most

critical period has all made very strong recommendations on Ms. Esther Muna as interim CEO of CHCC based on her performance and educational acumen

I am being treated along with over more than 150 other dialysis patients by Dr. Sherleen Osman and we find her to be highly competent, straight forward, and always up to par with the way she treats her patients. Seven years now since I have been undergoing dialysis treatment.

SB 18-52 is not good with Joaquin and Pedro at the helm of CHCC. I feel good that the 18th Legislature referred back to the committee on health SB 18-52. Perhaps the 19th Legislature will add amendments to the bill that will include among others that each appointee as governing board member a provision mandating each member possesses a minimum educational penetration on health-care from an accredited institution.

I am urging the members of the 19th Legislature look seriously into SB 18-52 and perhaps kill it in its current form. I am also urging governor Inos to veto SB 18-52 should it reach his desk. Finally, I am urging our senators to be more prudent when handling bills on the health of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan
Dandan

Birth defects are common, costly, and critical

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network states that, "Birth defects are common, costly and critical." Their statistics show that, "Birth defects affect 1 in 33 babies every year. Nationally the yearly hospital costs for birth defects exceed \$2.6 billion. One in 5 infant deaths are due to birth defects, making them a leading cause of infant mortality." It can be very scary and emotional for parents when they learn that something may be wrong with their child.

Fifteen years ago our son was born about a month premature. We were allowed to bring him home the next day, and he was so small he barely fit into his car seat. Later that week we noticed that his skin had started turning an orange and his eyes were yellow. We were later told that he had jaundice and he had vision loss in one of his eyes. He spent his first weekend in an incubator. The doctors were unsure of the cause, and we were not sure what we were supposed to do. In his incubator his skin started changing to a "normal" color again and we took him back home. Soon after getting home, the jaundice returned. The doctor ran

test after test on him and I felt helpless not to be able to make him better. My frustrations caused me to refuse further testing on him. We were fortunate enough to get help from CDAC, the Child Development Assistance Center. The therapists and coordinators there gave us support to help the little guy along despite his problems. After his second weekend in the incubator, I brought the boy with me to work and after briefly holding him, the *man'amko* ladies at my job told me to stop making him drink his mom's milk. Those old women seemed to know better than our doctor, because by the next day, after switching him over to formula, the jaundice went away for good. Our doctor later told us he was allergic to his mom's milk, and an infection had started while he was in the womb. Seven years later our second son was born. He also showed symptoms of jaundice, and we immediately switched him over to formula causing the jaundice to go away. Today my eldest boy is about 6 foot 1 and towers over me. He still has low vision in one eye, but that does not prevent him

from playing games, socializing, and being active.

I often think back to those troubling times at his birth and think of the many parents who experience (in my opinion) far worse cases with their children. January is National Birth Defects Prevention Awareness Month. The National Birth Defects Prevention Network reminds parents, especially mothers, that some birth defects can be prevented by taking folic acid; having regular medical checkups; making sure medical conditions, such as diabetes, are under control; have tests for infectious diseases and get necessary vaccinations; and not use cigarettes, alcohol, or other drugs.

For more information about where you can get help for a child born with birth defects, please visit the National Birth Defects Prevention Network online at <http://www.nbdpn.org> or contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 and online at www.nmpasi.org

Greg Borja
NMPASI projects specialist

Inappropriate location

I write this letter as a property owner who lives near the proposed crematorium in Chalan Kanoa. While people often quote the phrase "location, location, location" as the mantra for real estate investment, here this phrase describes the major problem with this proposed crematorium—its location is totally inappropriate and should not be approved!

For those of you who are unaware, the current issue is a proposal to build the island's first crematorium in the building previously used by Carmen's Baby News on Beach Road. This is smack in between where the Bank of Saipan building is and where's Triple J's "K-Mart" store operated—across from the Aquarius Hotel. The proposal is to allow the conversion of the existing building into a funeral home and crematorium. However, there are major problems with this proposal, (1) health concerns, and (2) impact on adjoining uses.

The health issues concern the discharge of odor, smoke, heavy metals, and chemicals that are natural byproducts of the cremation process. But, please, don't take my word for it. Do your own research and hear what residents who live near crematoriums across the country are complaining about. Better yet, find out more from the experts. Here's one of many sites you can start with: <https://no2crematory.wordpress.com/the-toxic-truth-data/>.

The proposed site for this activity is right in the middle of a densely populated area of Chalan Kanoa and these emissions will directly affect the immediately adjacent sites of Sister Remedios

School, Mount Carmel School, and the adjacent homes where people live a few feet away. That's right—we're literally talking about just a few feet away. It is a well-established fact that crematoriums produce offensive and harmful discharges including toxic mercury from the burning of human teeth. How would you like to have your residence next to this activity and emission source? Knowing what we do about crematorium discharges, how can we even consider this proposal at this site?

As to the issues of impact of impact of adjoining uses, Chalan Kanoa is in the midst of a significant revitalization that includes construction of a new Best Western Hotel, the construction of Sandy Beach Homes, a new beach restaurant across the proposed site, the new Tasi Homes at the Sugar Dock area, and others. These projects have invested millions of dollars into the neighborhood and are certain to be the foundation for the uplifting of the entire neighborhood. So do we want to stymie these positive developments by placing a facility that calls for the burning of bodies into the middle of a tourist district with restaurants, schools, hotels, and adjoining residences? We have been waiting for revitalization of Chalan Kanoa for 30 plus years. Now that we are moving forward, let's not shoot ourselves in the foot.

Facts, again from the experts, not me-have shown that the health and offensive natures of crematoriums can be alleviated by locating them away from residential districts. By isolating this use allows

for dissipation of emissions and odors and thus a direct reduction in health concerns and the complaints regarding odor, fumes and noises are eliminated. In light of these facts, the real estate mantra of "location, location, location" rings true in this case as it calls for establishment of this business away from residences and in more industrial setting.

Let me be clear, I and many others in the greater community support the establishment of a crematorium on Saipan and we hold the Borja family in high regard for their long history of commitment to local business development. For many years they have provided excellent funeral services to hundreds of families, and we appreciate them greatly for this. But our opposition to the family's latest venture is not about any of this. I implore the Borja family, the many loyal supporters they have rallied, and the members of the Zoning Board to listen to the real objections especially of those living and working near the proposed site-me and my family included, to the business owners and their employees, and to the students of Mount Carmel and Sister Remedios and their parents about the proposed location for the crematorium. Hear also what the experts have to say about operating crematoriums in residential neighborhoods. Let's work together on this issue and select a more appropriate location.

Ray M. Bermudes
Chalan Kanoa

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼78°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼78°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N166E across the Northern Mariana Islands at 17N146E to beyond 13N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from a weak circulation southwest of Koror at 1N131E to another circulation centered south of Pohnpei at 2N158E then turns southeastward to end at the equator and 166E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror are south of a line from 4N130E to 1N141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk and Pohnpei are within 150 Miles of a line from 7N149E to 1N156E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 6N163E to 2N169E and just east of Tarawa and Butaritari Atolls within 75 miles of a line from 2N173E to 3N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲ 84	▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 80
Kosrae	Thunderstoms	▲ 85	▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstoms	▲ 84	▼ 81

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78	▼ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 42	▼ 20
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71	▼ 62
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79	▼ 64
London	Fog	▲ 50	▼ 46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 78	▼ 52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83	▼ 65
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82	▼ 71
New York	Windy	▲ 37	▼ 24
Osaka	Rain	▲ 55	▼ 35
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 41	▼ 31
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45	▼ 22
Rome	Sunny	▲ 54	▼ 37
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 54	▼ 42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63	▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 28	▼ 13
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 60	▼ 37
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 37	▼ 26

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
9:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:58 PM	7:10 AM
Wednesday	7:48 PM	7:55 AM
Thursday	8:36 PM	8:37 AM
Friday	9:23 PM	9:17 AM
Saturday	10:10 PM	9:56 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7			MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6		
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5039/179</											

Business

Las Vegas airport preps for tech-savvy travelers

LAS VEGAS (AP)—While the gadgets of the future are only just arriving in Las Vegas for the annual International CES show, officials at the city's main airport are updating a decades-old terminal to cater to legions of tech-savvy travelers.

By Friday at McCarran International Airport, a couple thousand outlets and USB ports under seats and inside bars and restaurants will be available for those looking for a power charge in Terminal 1 before heading home after the gadget convention.

The airport had already installed free airport-wide Wi-Fi ahead of the electronics show 10 years ago at a time when travelers had either a laptop or personal digital assistant, if that, and were at most checking e-mail or finishing up a PowerPoint presentation.

Now, there are movies to stream, virtual meetings to conduct, Internet games to play and books to download. More than 160,000 people attended the 2014 show, which takes over the Las Vegas Convention Center, the Sands Expo and several nearby hotels with more than 2 million square feet of exhibit space—or about 35 football fields.



Hot trends this year include Internet connectivity in everyday products such as cars and appliances and the growth of online video as an alternative to traditional television channels. New TVs with sharper images and better colors are also expected.

The four-day show begins Tuesday, though pre-show events take place Sunday and Monday.

Karen Chupka, senior vice president with CES and the Consumer Electronics Association, said her group is likely the biggest electricity and Internet

user when it comes to town.

"We tend to push the limits of everything," she said adding that year after year, the city

has beefed up its capabilities in response, such as relatively recent Internet upgrades to the convention center that show or-

In this Dec. 29, 2014, photo, people use a charging station at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. By the end of the annual International CES show a couple thousand outlets and USB ports will be available for those looking for a power charge in Terminal 1 before heading home. AP

ganizers are particularly excited about. The airport's addition of a couple thousand more outlets and USB ports is, "great, that's absolutely wonderful," she said.

Travelers with gadgets often face a dilemma to grab a bite to eat in a restaurant or bar lacking outlets or slump against a wall, plug into a wall outlet near a boarding gate and watch as the battery is recharged.

"You don't have to make that choice," said Samuel Ingalls, assistant director of aviation information services at the airport.

The 500 under-seat power supplies with two outlets and two USB ports each and more power outlet upgrades to come are expected to cost the airport \$400,000.

If lawmakers don't act, rents could rise in NYC

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Cynthia Chaffee's Manhattan apartment would likely go for more than \$5,000 a month if the landlord charged market price. But Chaffee pays thousands less thanks to the city's long-standing rent stabilization rules—regulations that will expire this year if lawmakers don't act.

The 63-year-old paid \$300 a month when she moved into the one-bedroom space in 1978. To Chaffee, the rules governing how much she and more than 2 million other New York City residents pay in rent protect the city's diversity and character.

"The city is changing enough as it is, and these laws are so important to so many people," said

Chaffee, who won't specify how much she pays now. "If you want to have neighborhoods, if you want to have families and artists and elderly living in New York City, we need these laws. Can you imagine what New York City would be like without them?"

The laws governing the rent paid by Chaffee and more than 2 million other New York City residents are due to expire June 15, and state lawmakers are preparing for what could be a bruising debate over whether to renew, strengthen or weaken them.

The complicated set of rules determines the size of rent increases for nearly 1 million apartments built before 1973. Supporters say

they are critical to ensuring that New York City—a city of 2.2 million apartments—remains affordable to working-class and middle-class residents. Landlords, however, chafe under rules that they say keep rent artificially low and force them to charge more for unregulated apartments and forgo improvements.

Brooklyn landlord Chris Athineos manages some rent-stabilized apartments that go for as little as \$500 to \$700 a month—units that would go for \$1,500 or \$2,000 if unregulated. He said the rules are unfair to landlords and tenants who are forced to subsidize the lower rents of regulated units.

no change of course." He also repeated Berlin's position that "the German government expects that Greece will continue to fulfill its contractual obligations toward the troika" of the EU, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund. Germany has warned Greece against reneging on the terms of its bailout program should the left-wing Syriza party win this month's general election.

American Airlines, pilots union reach labor deal

The pilots union at American Airlines has agreed to put up for

a vote a five-year contract proposal that would boost pay by more than 26 percent and offer smaller raises in later years. The board of the Allied Pilots Association agreed late Saturday, just before a midnight deadline set by the company, to accept the basic terms of the deal before the offer was pulled and negotiations moved to arbitration. The proposal's language must be completed and voted on by pilots, according to a statement on the union's website. "Our goal was to conclude negotiations promptly and deliver the best possible result for our pilots," the statement said. (AP)

Employee has bad attitude but great sales figures

Q: I have a toxic employee who is driving me crazy. When I became the manager of our sales department, my promotion was accepted well by everyone except "Brittany," the newest member of the team.

Every day, Brittany storms into my office with various demands. She challenges my decisions and complains constantly about her co-workers. Her frequent outbursts have made staff meetings unbearable. Other team members used to joke about her verbal onslaughts, but now they just try to ignore her.

Whenever I attempt to discuss these problems, Brittany responds with argumentative arrogance followed by brooding silence. I would love to fire Brittany, but her sales performance is outstanding. If I get human resources involved, I'm afraid she will quit. Is there any way to fix this?

A: Your fear is actually the source of your troubles. Because you are unwilling to let her go, Brittany feels free to act out as much as she likes. Your reluctance to lose her has eroded your managerial power, so the only solution is to stop guaranteeing her job security.

First, you must get your manager to agree that Brittany should be dismissed if these disruptive actions continue. Your boss's approval is critical because management needs to display a united front. Next, the two of you should

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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meet with her to deliver a stern warning and a performance improvement plan.

Should Brittany suggest she can't control this behavior, explain that you have evidence to the contrary. As a successful salesperson, she clearly possesses interpersonal skills which she is not using in the office. So if she wants to keep her job, she must begin treating colleagues like customers.

If this disciplinary talk causes Brittany to leave, that will actually be to your benefit. Losing a highly productive sales employee is tough, but keeping this poisonous person around would be much worse.

Q: Our company is conducting an employee satisfaction survey. Management says our responses cannot be identified, but we have to enter a pre-assigned user name and password to access the survey form. This makes me uncomfortable. Should I be concerned?

A: Employee surveys are only valid when people give honest opinions. Since concerns about being identified

can invalidate the data, professional survey providers take steps to prevent this problem. Therefore, you have less to worry about if the survey is being conducted by a reputable outside vendor.

Identity can be protected through either anonymity or confidentiality. Anonymity means there is no way to know who completed each form, while confidentiality implies that such information may be gathered, but not compiled or shared.

If the vendor has given everyone the same user name and password, responses should be anonymous, especially if you log in from a personal device. However, unique identifiers may be assigned to insure that no one takes the survey twice. In that case, you should ask how confidentiality will be protected.

But if this survey is being administered in-house, that's a different story. Because internal systems provide many ways to connect survey answers to individuals, your confidence in anonymity will depend upon your level of trust in management.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

German government denies changing tack on Greece

BERLIN (AP)—A spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel says Germany hasn't shifted its view on Greece leaving the euro. In a report Saturday, German weekly Der Spiegel had cited unnamed government officials indicating that Merkel and her finance minister no longer believe it would be too risky for the 19-member eurozone if Greece dropped the currency. But deputy government spokesman Georg Streiter told The Associated Press in an emailed statement Sunday: "There is

Nation

7-year-old plane crash survivor may help probe

EDDYVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Sailor Gutzler, the 7-year-old girl who survived a plane crash, walked a mile through the cold, dark woods to safety and then helped authorities locate the wreckage and remains of her family, may not be done helping investigators.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Heidi Moats said Sunday that Sailor is “one remarkable young lady,” and she might be able to assist them in determining what brought the plane down. It is rare for someone to survive a small plane crash and Moats said they want to talk to Sailor about it.

“Having someone that is a witness (is) always helpful in the investigation, it gives us kind of a story line,” Moats said.

It’s not clear when investigators might talk to Sailor, who despite being bloodied and suffering a broken wrist, pulled herself from the wreckage and walked to the nearest home.

She was dressed for Florida, where her family had been visiting, and was wearing shorts, a short-sleeve shirt and only one sock when she found a home about a mile from the crash site. Authorities said she walked through thick woods and briar patches in near-freezing temperatures.

“She absolutely went to the nearest house that she could have,” Kentucky State Police Lt. Brent White said. “But it



was still a considerable feat for her to do that.”

The remains of the Piper PA-34 plane were moved Sunday so officials with the NTSB can inspect it. They haven’t discussed any possibilities of what brought the plane down or how Sailor survived the crash.

The agency will issue a pre-

liminary report in about 10 days, Moats said at a news

conference in Eddyville.

Sailor was treated at a hos-

Mayor eulogizes officer as cops outside turn backs

NEW YORK (AP)—Thousands of police turned their backs Sunday as Mayor Bill de Blasio eulogized an officer shot dead with his partner, repeating a stinging display of scorn for the mayor despite entreaties to put anger aside.

The show of disrespect came outside the funeral home where Officer Wenjian Liu was remembered as an incarnation of the American dream: a man who had emigrated from China at age 12 and devoted himself to helping others in his adopted country. The gesture among officers watching the mayor’s speech on a screen added to tensions between the mayor and rank-and-file police even as he sought to quiet them.

“Let us move forward by strengthening the bonds that unite us, and let us work together to attain peace,” de Blasio said at the funeral.

Liu, 32, had served as a policeman for seven years and was married just two months when he was killed with his partner, Officer Rafael Ramos, on Dec. 20. Liu’s longtime aspiration to become a police officer deepened after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, his father, Wei Tang Liu, said through tears.

And as he finished his daily

work, the only child would call to say: “I’m coming home today. You can stop worrying now,” the father recalled during a service that blended police tradition with references to Buddha’s teachings.

Dignitaries including FBI Director James Comey and members of Congress joined police officers from around the country in a throng of over 10,000 mourners.

“When one of us loses our lives, we have to come together,” said Officer Lucas Grant of the Richmond County Sheriff’s Office in Augusta, Georgia.

After hundreds of officers

out because of how deep he was buried.”

Marty Gutzler was flying the plane, which reported engine trouble and lost contact with air traffic controllers around 5:55 p.m. CST, authorities said. Controllers tried to direct the pilot to an airport 5 to 7 miles from the crash scene.

About 40 minutes later, 911 dispatchers received the call from Wilkins.

The Gutzlers had been visiting family in Key West, Florida, and stopped in Tallahassee, Florida, on the way back to Mount Vernon, Illinois.

Gutzler was a licensed commercial pilot and flight instructor, according to the FAA website.

A woman who answered the telephone at Campagna Funeral Home in Nashville said Sunday that arrangements for Marty Gutzler, his wife and their 9-year-old daughter were pending.

Sailor’s family members said through a spokesman that they do not want to do any interviews at this time because they need time to grieve. A fund was set up for her at <https://www.sailorgutzlerfund.com/>.

ACROSS THE NATION

Official: 2 hurt when tornado hits rural Georgia

ALMA, Ga. (AP)—An assistant fire chief in rural Georgia says a tornado swept through the area and destroyed a mobile home, injuring two people inside. Alma assistant fire chief Scotty Boatright said it took emergency crews about a half hour to rescue a woman who became trapped in the rubble of her mobile home. Her husband also had to be rescued after the mobile home was thrown off its foundation and the walls collapsed. The woman had serious injuries and was taken to a hospital in Savannah, which is about 90 miles northeast of Alma. The man was in stable condition at a local hospital. Boatright says the tornado knocked down trees, destroyed two barns and caused minor damage to a couple of houses.

Passengers complain of 12-hour wait on tarmac

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hundreds of air travelers landed in San Francisco, safe but irritated after a 28-hour overseas flight they say included 12 hours on a tarmac in the Middle East without food or accurate flight information. Tempers grew short on Etihad Airways Flight 183 when fog in the city of Abu Dhabi delayed takeoff for a half-day, passengers told San Francisco broadcaster KGO. “They kept telling us that we were going to leave, you know 15 minutes from now, 20 minutes from now, 30 minutes for now, for 12 hours,” passenger Thomas Piani told reporters in San Francisco after finally landing in the city on Saturday evening. Passengers said the flight crew told them the Abu Dhabi airport was too crowded with other stranded flights to allow them to get off the plane to wait. “Everybody was fighting with each other, and the flight attendants were fighting with us, and we were fighting with the flight attendants,” passenger Venkatesh Pahwa said. Flight attendants eventually passed out sandwiches and water after some people made a fuss over the lack of food, passenger Ravali Reddy said.

BOSTON (AP)—His accusers brandish a confession scribbled inside a boat during an intensive manhunt and a video they say shows him placing a backpack with a bomb a few feet from a little boy who died when it exploded seconds later.

His defenders bank on the story of a difficult childhood in a former Soviet republic and his radicalization at the hands of an influential older brother who could have pressured him into participating in the deadly attack.

Jury selection for the trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, accused in the Boston Marathon attacks, begins Monday. Those cho-

sen from a pool of about 1,200 will decide whether Tsarnaev planned and carried out the twin bombings that killed three people and injured more than 260 near the finish line of the race on April 15, 2013. If they find him guilty, they will decide whether he should be put to death.

It’s perhaps the most closely watched federal death penalty case since Timothy McVeigh was convicted and executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Tsarnaev’s lawyers tried in vain for months to get the trial moved, arguing the Boston jury pool was tainted because of the number of locals with connections to the race and drawing

parallels to the McVeigh case, which was moved to Denver for similar reasons. But U.S. District Judge George O’Toole Jr. has been unmoved.

Jury selection alone is expected to take several weeks because of extensive media coverage and the thousands of runners, spectators and others in the area personally affected by the bombings. The process also could be slowed if potential jurors express objections to the death penalty.

Some legal observers say Tsarnaev’s lawyers—facing powerful evidence against him—will probably focus their energies on the penalty phase,

when they could present mitigating evidence to spare his life. He has a strong team behind him. Attorney Judy Clarke touts a strong record of helping her high-profile clients avoid the death penalty, including Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber; Olympic Park bomber Eric Rudolph; and Jared Loughner, who killed six people and wounded former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Tsarnaev’s lawyers are likely to narrow in on motive and any pressure exerted on him, said Dan Collins, a former assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago who has investigated U.S. ties to terrorism.

Asia

Divers resume search for victims and fuselage of AirAsia jet

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP)—The weather improved Monday and divers will attempt again to locate large objects on the ocean floor believed to be the fuselage of the AirAsia flight that crashed more than one week ago, killing all 162 on board.

At least five ships with equipment that can detect the plane's black boxes have been deployed to the area where the suspected plane parts were spotted, said Suryadi B. Supriyadi, Indonesia's National Search and Rescue director of operations.

"If it cannot be done by divers, we will use sophisticated equipment with capabilities of tracking underwater objects and then will lift them up," Supriyadi said.

Five large objects—the biggest measuring 18 meters (59 feet) long and 5.4 meters (18 feet) wide and believed to be the fuselage—have been detected, and Supriyadi repeated that officials expect that many passengers and crew will be found trapped inside.

"But today's searching mission is still, once again, depend on the weather," he said.

Divers tried to reach the site on Sunday, but rolling seas stirred up silt and mud, leaving them with zero visibility.



AP
Crew members of Indonesian Air Force NAS 332 Super Puma helicopter look out of the windows during a search operation for the victims of AirAsia Flight 8501 over the Java Sea, Indonesia, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

The crash of Flight 8501 has triggered an intensive international search-and-recovery operation involving 20 planes and helicopters along with 27 ships from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States. All have been desperately searching for the all-important black boxes, pieces of the Airbus A320 and corpses.

The investigation got a boost over the weekend when sonar equipment identified five large objects on the seabed in the search area, but no images have been captured confirming they are part of the aircraft. Suspected plane parts also were seen scattered on beaches during an aerial survey.

While it remains unclear what caused the plane crash, bad weather appears to have been a factor, according to a report by Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency.

Indonesian authorities have also announced the grounding of AirAsia flights from Surabaya to Singapore, with the Transport Ministry saying the airline did not have a permit to fly on Sundays. However, Singapore's Civil Aviation Authority said that from its end, the airline had been approved to fly the route daily.

Bangladesh on edge ahead of election anniversary

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police in Bangladesh's capital have banned all rallies and prevented a top opposition leader from leaving her office, while dozens of opposition activists have been detained across the country, officials and local media said Sunday. The moves come ahead of the anniversary of a general election boycotted by a major opposition alliance last year.

Police have cordoned off the

office of former Prime Minister and current chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Khaleda Zia, since late Saturday night in Dhaka's Gulshan area, with authorities saying the measure was part of enhanced security steps. Zia is the archrival of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who came to power last year for a second term.

On Sunday, police clashed with opposition supporters in several parts of the country, in-

cluding the eastern district of Brahmanbaria, leaving dozens of people injured, ATN Bangla and Channel 24 television stations reported.

Police would not immediately comment on the clashes.

In Dhaka, suspected opposition activists torched a bus and smashed several vehicles, local media reported.

Authorities deployed paramilitary border guards to patrol Dha-

ka and some other major cities, said Mohsin Reza, spokesman for Border Guards Bangladesh.

Junior Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said Sunday that security for Zia had been upgraded and that she was not confined as claimed by opposition leaders.

Hasina returned to power in an election last Jan. 5 that was boycotted by Zia's party, which said the poll would be rigged.

utes after taking off on what was supposed to be a two-hour flight. Just before losing contact, the pilot told air traffic control that he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic.

Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, has been gripped by grief as bodies, one by one, continue arriving in simple, numbered coffins after being painstakingly pulled from the water. Four more bodies were brought to shore on Sunday, raising the total to 34.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan official: Insurgents kill 9 police

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says insurgents killed five policemen, including their commander, in the volatile eastern province of Logar, a day after four policemen who were abducted in the same region were found dead. Din Mohammad Darwesh, spokesman for the provincial governor, says insurgents ambushed the five men early Sunday in Baraki Barak district, where the Taliban launch frequent attacks on government security forces. Insurgents had kidnapped four policemen from neighboring Wardak province on Saturday. Their bodies were found near the provincial capital Pul-i-Alam hours later, he said. The violence follows the transition of security sovereignty to Afghan forces on Jan. 1 following the 13-year U.S. and NATO-led mission to rid Afghanistan of the Taliban-led insurgency.

US warns about threat against banks, otels in Indonesia

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP)—The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta has issued a warning to Americans about a potential threat against U.S. associated banks and hotels in Indonesia's second-largest city, Surabaya. An embassy spokesperson said Sunday there was nothing linking the warning with AirAsia Flight 8501. The plane crashed into the Java Sea a week ago after taking off from Surabaya, killing all 162 passengers and crew on board. The U.S. Navy is taking part in an international effort to recover bodies and locate the wreckage. The alert was issued to U.S. citizens on Saturday without giving details. Indonesia's national police spokesman Brig. Gen. Agus Riyanto said he was unaware of any terrorism threat against banks and hotels in Surabaya, but promised that security would be increased.

3 things to know about new US sanctions on North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Here are three things to know about new U.S. sanctions against North Korea over a cyberattack on Sony Pictures, whose movie depicting the fictional assassination of North Korea's leader has infuriated Pyongyang, which denies responsibility for the cyberattack:

■ ■ ■

Pyongyang's rhetoric over the weekend, which included a vow that the new sanctions and America's "inveterate repugnancy and hostility" would not weaken the North's 1.2-million-strong military, is probably directed as much at a domestic audience as it is at Washington.

Some North Korea watchers believe that sanctions help to insulate Pyongyang from taking responsibility for its failures, and allow Kim Jong Un, the

30-something leader who took power in late 2011 after his father's death, to better solidify his power and bolster his domestic image as a strong leader.

Pyongyang, the argument goes, uses tension with the outside world, in general, and sanctions, in particular, to whip up always high anti-U.S. sentiment. This, in turn, allows the leadership to justify its inability to feed many of its people and the continuing push to develop nuclear bombs it says are needed to defend against Washington.

■ ■ ■

The new measures are unlikely to make much of a difference in North Korea, which has been bombarded by sanctions for decades and which has woven an obsession with self-reliance into its national psyche.

Some analysts say Washing-

ton and others have the ability, should they choose, to apply more severe financial measures to hurt the North's leadership. But many others point out that a raft of multilateral penalties from the United Nations, as well as national sanctions from Washington, Tokyo and others meant to punish the government and sidetrack its nuclear ambitions, have done nothing to derail Pyongyang's pursuit of a nuclear tipped missile that could reach America's mainland.

The most recent sanctions, which target 10 North Korean government officials and three organizations, including Pyongyang's primary intelligence agency and state-run arms dealer, will have a limited impact because North Korea will likely assign other people or organizations to take over the work of those targeted, analysts say.

■ ■ ■

The measures probably won't hurt recent efforts to improve ties between the rival Koreas.

North and South Korea have been at each other's throats, both figuratively and literally, since the Korean Peninsula was divided at the end of World War II into a U.S. backed capitalist south and a Soviet-backed communist north.

In the decades since they were founded in 1948, the Koreas have established elaborate patterns of communicating their intentions toward each other, even as they trade bombastic rhetoric and threats.

The North's comments over the weekend have been largely viewed in Seoul as leaving the door open for warming ties as they didn't specifically criticize South Korea.

World

Israel threatens more punitive steps against Palestinians

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli leaders on Sunday threatened to take tougher action against the Palestinians over their decision to join the International Criminal Court, a day after freezing the transfer of more than \$100 million in tax funds.

Last week's Palestinian decision to seek membership in the international court has infuriated Israel. The Palestinians have said they intend on using their new membership in the Hague-based tribunal to press war crimes cases against Israel.

"The Palestinian Authority has chosen confrontation with Israel and we will not sit idly by," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet. He said Israel would not allow its soldiers to be "hauled" before the court.

In an initial response over the weekend, Israel said it had frozen tax funds collected for the Palestinians. The monthly transfers are a key source of revenue for the cash-strapped Palestinian government.

Netanyahu's government minister for strategic affairs, Yuval Steinitz, said Israel could take even tougher action.

"If the Palestinian Authority continues to attack us, I assume

we will consider other steps," he said, without elaborating.

The Palestinians sought membership in the international tribunal after the U.N. Security Council voted down a resolution setting a three-year deadline for the establishment of a Palestinian state on lands occupied by Israel. On Sunday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said officials were considering going back to the council.

"We might go again and again and again," he said. "We will never get bored until we gain the recognition—and in the end they will recognize us."

Also Sunday, Israel's Shin Bet security service said it arrested a Palestinian militant cell that drew inspiration from the Islamic State extremist group. It said the cell was based in the West Bank city of Hebron and plotted shooting and bombing attacks. The cell had no formal ties to Islamic State.

Meanwhile, Israel's Supreme Court rejected an Israeli military plan to extend its West Bank separation barrier through a Palestinian village near Jerusalem. Residents in Battir had argued the structure would destroy ancient farming terraces. In June,



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends a weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO designated Battir a World Heritage site.

Pope picks 15 new cardinals reflecting diversity

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis named 15 new cardinals Sunday, selecting them from 14 nations including far-flung corners of the world such as Tonga, New Zealand, Cape Verde and Myanmar to reflect the diversity of the church and its growth in places like Asia and Africa compared to affluent regions.

Other cardinals hail from Ethiopia, Thailand and Vietnam.

None came from the United States and only three European nations received new cardinals—Portugal and Spain in addition to Italy. Cape Verde, Tonga and Myanmar gained cardinals for the first time.

Francis told faithful in St. Peter's Square that the new batch of cardinals "shows the inseparable tie with the church of Rome to churches in the world."

Five new cardinals come from Europe, three from Asia, three from Latin America, including Mexico, and two each come from Africa and Oceania.

With his picks, the Argentine-born Francis, the first pontiff from Latin America, made ever clearer that he is laying out a new vision of the church's identity, including of its hierarchy. He looked beyond traditional metropolitan area for the "princes of the church" who will help advise him as goes forward with church reforms. Cardinals also elect his successor.

He has said repeatedly that the church must reach out to those on the margins.

The Vatican's chief spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the selection "confirms that the pope doesn't feel tied to the traditional 'cardinal sees,' which reflected historic reasons in various countries."

"Instead we have various nominations of archbishops or bishops of sees in the past that wouldn't have had a cardinal," Lombardi said.

The pontiff ignored another tradition: limiting to 120 the number of cardinals under 80 and eligible to vote for his successor.

Counting the new cardinals, 125 cardinals will be eligible to vote, although Lombardi noted, "he kept very close to it (120), so it was substantially respected."

The two nations with the biggest number of eligible electors

are Italy, with 26, and the United States with 11.

Notable among Pope Francis' picks are churchmen whose advocacy styles seem to particularly capture matters dear to his heart.

Monsignor Francesco Montenegro, a Sicilian, was at his side when Francis made his first trip a few months into his papacy. Montenegro welcomed the pontiff to Lampedusa, a tiny Sicilian island whose people have helped thousands of migrants stranded by smugglers. The pontiff has repeatedly denounced human trafficking and urged more attention to people on the margins of society. He also has thundered against Mafiosi, and Montenegro's Agrigento diocese includes towns where people have dared to rebel against Cosa Nostra.



Pope Francis speaks during the Angelus noon prayer from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's square at the Vatican, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015.

Iran's president: Nuclear talks a matter of heart

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday that ongoing nuclear negotiations with world powers are a matter of "heart," not just centrifuges ahead of talks next week in Geneva.

Speaking to an economic conference in Tehran, Rouhani both countered hard-line critics worried Iran will give up too much while also attempting to signal his administration remains open to negotiation with the six-nation group leading the talks.

If "we are ready to stop some types of enrichment which we do not need at this time, does it mean we have compromised our principles and cause?" Rouhani asked.

He responded: "Our cause is not linked to a centrifuge. It is connected to our heart and to

our willpower."

On Jan. 15, Iranian negotiators will meet in Geneva with officials from the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany, hoping to hammer details out of a final deal. Iran reached an interim, one-year deal with world powers in November 2013 to freeze its nuclear program in exchange for the easing of some sanctions. Negotiators later agreed to extend talks until June 30, with hopes of reaching a rough deal in March.

The West fears Iran's nuclear program could allow it to build nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes, like power generation and medical research.

The main conflict is over uranium enrichment, which can create both reactor fuel and the

fissile core of nuclear arms. In seeking to reduce Iran's bomb-making ability, the U.S. has proposed that Tehran export much of its stockpile of enriched uranium—something the Islamic Republic has long said it would not do. Two other unresolved issues are Iran's Fordo underground enrichment site and the nearly built Arak nuclear reactor.

Two diplomats in recent days told The Associated Press that Iran and the U.S. tentatively agreed on a formula about shipping its stockpile to Russia, as well as drew up a catalog outlining areas of potential accord and differing approaches to remaining disputes. On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham denied any tentative formula or catalog had been made.

Suicide bomber kills 4 people in Somalia's capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A suicide car bomber blew himself up near a moving convoy of Somalia's U.S.-trained elite forces in Mogadishu, killing at least four people, a Somali police officer said Sunday.

Somali militant group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack, according to the group's Radio Andulus.

The attack on the airport road in the capital killed mostly pedestrians walking along the road, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

Mohamed Yusuf, the spokesman of Somalia's National Security Ministry, said the government had information about the attack, and the car bomb was

detonated while the attacker was being pursued.

"We shall continue preventing such attacks, however we ask people to work with us," he told reporters in Mogadishu.

The Alpha Group troops are part of Somalia's intelligence forces and often carry out operations against militants in Somalia.

Al-Shabab is an ultra-conservative Islamic militant group that is linked to the al-Qaida terrorist network and wants to run Somalia by its strict interpretation of Shariah law. Despite militants suffering huge losses in recent years, including the killing of their leader in a U.S. airstrike earli-

er this year, al-Shabab remains a threat. Al-Shabab leader Ahmed Godane was killed in a U.S. airstrike in September.

African Union troops supporting Somalia's weak army have pushed al-Shabab from major strongholds, including Mogadishu in 2011. However, al-Shabab fighters still carry out terror attacks in Somalia's capital and in neighboring countries that have contributed troops to the African Union Mission to Somalia.

On Christmas day al-Shabab gunmen attacked the main African Union base in Mogadishu. The AU base hosts U.N. offices and embassies.

Focus

With his wife and child close at hand, Army Maj. Chad Wriglesworth battled skin cancer for more than a year before dying at age 37.

"It was long and painful and awful," said Aimee Wriglesworth, who believes the cancer resulted from exposure to toxic fumes in Iraq. Yet the 28-year-old widow from Bristow, Virginia, seized a chance to recount the ordeal and its aftermath to a researcher, hoping that input from her and her 6-year-old daughter might be useful to other grieving military families.

"To be able to study what we felt and what we're going through—maybe this will help people down the line," Wriglesworth said.

By the hundreds, other widows, widowers, parents, siblings and children are sharing accounts of their grief as part of the largest study ever of America's military families as they go through bereavement. About 2,000 people have participated over the past three years, and one-on-one interviews will continue through February.

The federally funded project is being conducted by the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Maryland-based Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The study is open to families of the more than 19,000 service members from all branches of the military who have died on active duty since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, regardless of whether the death resulted from combat, accident, illness, suicide or other causes.

"We've been impressed by how many people who've had this experience really want to let us know about it," said the leader of the study, Dr. Stephen Cozza. "They want to talk about what happened—to provide information that will help them and people like them in the future."

Aimee Wriglesworth is hopeful that the study will provide new insight on how best to support young families like hers.

"A lot of things that are helping us now come from Vietnam, Korea, World War II," she said of existing assistance programs. "But now it's a whole new world of military losses. Studying us is really important."

About half of the participants are providing saliva samples that will be used for genetic research, aimed at determining if certain genetic makeups correlate with the duration of the grieving process and the levels of stress and depression experienced as it unfolds. Some previous research has suggested that a certain gene variation is associated with greater risk of "complicated grief," especially in women.

Cozza said a final report isn't expected until 2017, and he is encouraging more survivors to



In this Dec. 16, 2014 photo, Army widow, Aimee Wriglesworth, poses for a photo next to a display of some of her late husband's awards and artifacts in her home in Bristow, Va. Wriglesworth lost her husband, an Army major to cancer in 2013.

Major study of bereaved military families underway

By **DAVID CRARY**
AP National Writer

sign up for interviews before the cutoff date in late February.

"Our interest is understanding what these families need," he said. "Recognizing the need will allow us to make better policy recommendations as to what sort of services would be appropriate for them."

The questionnaires and face-to-face interviews are being handled by eight field researchers based in regions spanning the country.

Jill Harrington, the senior field researcher, said the team members are experienced in dealing with grief and well-versed in military culture.

"For the families of the fallen, whoever they talk to, they want to be able to trust," Harrington said. "We have a highly trained group of folks who know how to listen and how to be patient."

While bereaved military families share much in common with other grieving families, there are distinctive aspects to many military deaths. Whether in combat, or by accident or suicide, they often occur suddenly, and many of the deceased are in their 20s or 30s.

"These are young families—a lot of single parents raising kids alone," said Harrington. "When someone dies young, there's a loss of the future. How do you live with that loss in your life?"

Some insight on that question will be provided by the roughly 100 children, ages 6 to 18, who are participating in the study. Most are the sons or daughters of deceased service members; a few are younger siblings.

"Many of these children, when their parent died, were very young and didn't know them well," said Cozza. According to preliminary findings,

he said, a factor helping them weather the loss was having pride in their departed parent's military service.

The web site for the study encourages bereaved parents to let their children participate, while acknowledging that the one-on-one interviews, lasting 90 minutes to three hours, cover sensitive matters.

"The field researchers are

trained to recognize when a child is upset and will periodically ask your child if he/she is okay to continue," the web site says. "If your child becomes upset, he/she can decide to stop the interview at any time."

Among the children taking part is Aimee Wriglesworth's daughter, Savannah, who was 5 when her father died at home on Nov. 20, 2013. Family photos



This Dec. 16, 2014 photo shows the wedding photo of Army widow, Aimee Wriglesworth, and her late husband, Chad, on display in her home in Bristow, Va. Wriglesworth lost her husband, an Army Major to cancer in 2013.

from the preceding days show Savannah cuddling up with him as he lay stricken in bed.

Chad Wriglesworth initially joined the Air Force and was deployed to Iraq in 2008. He transferred to the Army in 2009, and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011.

According to his wife, he began reporting lumps on various parts of his body starting in 2011 and was diagnosed in 2012 with Stage 4 melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer. The military, without being more specific, ruled that the major's death occurred in the line of duty; his wife believes the cancer was caused by his exposure to toxic fumes from open-air "burn pits" in Iraq that were used to destroy waste at U.S. bases.

Another study participant is Ryan Manion Borek, whose brother, Marine Lt. Travis Manion, was killed in combat in Iraq in 2007. Borek now heads a foundation named after her brother, which seeks to assist veterans, as well as families of fallen service members.

Borek expressed hope that the study's findings will reflect the wide range of ways in which survivors respond to the deaths of their loved ones.

"We don't all fit into the same box," she said. "That's the beauty of doing a study like this—we can begin to understand all the different ways people are dealing with their loss."

A video produced by the research team conveys the breadth of the study, featuring brief interviews with some of the survivors who decided to participate.

They include a Marine Corps officer, Lisa Doring, whose Marine husband died in a helicopter crash near their base in Iraq; a mother whose only son, an Army private, was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan; and a couple whose son, serving in the Coast Guard, committed suicide after what they described as sustained bullying and harassment.

Of all the active-duty deaths in the period being studied, about 13 percent were suicides. Accidents accounted for 35 percent, combat 30 percent, illness 15 percent and homicide 3 percent, according to Cozza.

One of the major partners for the study is the Arlington, Virginia-based support group known as TAPS—the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. It was founded in 1994 by Bonnie Carroll two years after her husband, a brigadier general, died in an Army plane crash.

Carroll said she was heartened that the study encompassed all types of deaths, even including service members responsible for murder-suicides.

"Regardless of how the person died, at some point in their life they stepped forward to raise their right hand and say 'I will protect this nation,'" Carroll said.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Poor sales-hungry Chevy couldn't even get the headlights right on its last hapless Colorado pickup.

They always looked upside down to me, making the entire truck seem a bit twisted—as if it had been styled by Keith Richards, my favorite senior citizen.

Some designer stacked the Colorado's turn signals and parking lamps above the headlights, giving it a dizzy, slightly demented look.

Every time one passed me on the road, I halfway expected to see Billy Bob Thornton behind the wheel.

And the Colorado didn't get much better from the grille back.

Skinny, square and kind of tinny looking, Colorados squeezed power from harsh four- and five-cylinder engines. The trucklet screamed young and financially distressed, and finally, I guess, people got tired of hearing it.

Chevrolet buried the tired Colorado in 2012, leaving the stale midsize pickup segment to the aging Toyota Tacoma and Nissan Frontier.

But that was old Chevy. New, reorganized Chevrolet plans to make a dramatic re-entry into the segment with an all-new, much-larger Colorado that's bent on bullying Toyota's old segment-leading Taco.

Get this: The metallic-gray

New Chevy Colorado

is better in every way than the old one



MCT

The all-new 2015 Chevrolet Colorado Z71 is built with the DNA of a true Chevy truck and is expected to deliver class-leading power, payload and trailering ratings.

2015 Colorado I had recently rolled on a chassis that was fully boxed, running thick frame rails that resembled those beneath a full-size Silverado.

It weighed around 4,500 pounds—at least 500 pounds more than the old truck—and was equipped with a V-6 engine, Z71 off-road package and four-wheel drive.

Some people even mistook it for a Silverado that had taken up jogging after Thanksgiving.

Like all new Chevys, the Colorado sported a big gold bow tie in the center of a bold grille.

This time around, the Colo-

rado greets the world with glaring, properly placed headlights, a raised, chiseled hood and squared-off flared fenders similar to those on the Silverado. The crew-cab model I had stood about 71 inches tall and was 74 inches wide. That compares with 74 inches in height for a Silverado crew cab and 80 inches of width.

It felt bigger, though—enhanced by thick, unadorned sides, squared-off wheelwells and an especially long-looking 140-inch wheelbase.

Large vertical taillamps and a rear bumper with steps pressed

into the corners added to the Silver in its genes.

The pumped-up pickup was a stretch for me because of the slightly raised Z71 suspension and burly 255/65 tires on gray-and-silver 17-inch wheels.

In fact, if you parked the Colorado next to a Silverado from a decade or so ago, I'd bet the Colorado would be just as big—or bigger.

Chevy says the Colorado is aimed at people who don't want or need a full-size pickup. But no one will call the new truck small.

My pickup—a loaded model

at \$36,535—had the optional 3.6-liter V-6 engine with 305 horsepower under the hood, an engine that sees duty in dozens of GM vehicles.

With 269 pound-feet of torque, the double-overhead-cam motor might not be a perfect truck engine, but it has good power and can tow up to 7,000 pounds.

Bolted to a solid six-speed automatic, the engine felt lively and capable in most situations, propelling the Colorado to 60 in about 6.6 seconds, according to Car and Driver. If pushed really hard, the engine felt and sounded as if it was working pretty hard. While admirably quick, it just wasn't quite as competent as a good V-8.

But, then, buyers in this segment may not expect that. If they're looking for superior fuel economy, though, they may not find that, either.

The four-wheel-drive Colorado I had was rated at 17 miles per gallon in the city and 24 on the highway. A full-size Silverado equipped with the base 4.3-liter V-6 gets 18 mpg in town and 24 on the highway.

I'm not sure whether prospective buyers will cross-shop Colorados with full-size pickups, but fuel economy could be an issue with some. (The base 2.5-liter four in the Colorado is rated at 20 mpg in town and 27 on the highway.)

Nonetheless, buyers should be impressed with the ride and sophistication of the Colorado.

Though firm, the truck's suspension absorbed rough pavement well. Even direct hits on a pothole were minimized by the Colorado's stiff body and frame, which muffled squeaks and squirms.

In fact, the ride is so decent that most of you could live with a four-wheel-drive Colorado as your primary vehicle.

The burly-looking pickup also benefits from GM's growing expertise with electric power steering, which can feel numb if

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 CHEVROLET COLORADO FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE Z71

- Type of vehicle: Four-door, mid size, five-passenger pickup with four-wheel-drive
- Price as tested: \$36,535
- Fuel economy: 17 miles per gallon city, 24 highway
- Weight: About 4,500 pounds
- Engine: 3.6-liter V-6 with 305 horsepower and 269 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic
- Performance: 0 to 60 mph in an estimated 6.6 seconds

SOURCES: Chevrolet; Car and Driver

not properly tuned. Reasonably quick and well weighted, the steering seemed suited to the truck's weight and helped make it feel reasonably agile—or at least more agile than most full-size trucks.

Although hardly built to handle, the Colorado felt composed and balanced in moderate-speed corners. That's about all I was willing to tempt in a tall pickup with knobby tires.

As you might expect in a midsize, medium-price truck designed to be taken off-road occasionally, the gray interior in my Colorado had plenty of hard surfaces. But they were well-designed, beginning with a flat-gray, color-coordinated gray dashboard that wrapped around an eight-inch touch screen at the top of a broad center stack.

Simple knobs and buttons sprouted from the stack for the audio and climate-control systems, and a comfortable T-bar shifter controlled the six-speed automatic.

Though the door panels also were mostly plastic, padded light gray centers added a dash of upscale, as did a gray headliner.

Likewise, two-tone gray seats offered leather bolsters and cloth centers that, like much of the interior, just seemed to fit the pickup's personality well.

The legroom in the back seat felt fine to me but was not generous. Headroom was so ample that I could sit back there in one of my old Roy Rogers outfits with room to spare for my good-guy hat.

(Hey, I'm in Colorado.)

Many Colorado consumers are expected to be so-called lifestyle buyers looking for a pickup to cart bicycles and camping equipment or tow small boats.

For now, the Colorado isn't a great alternative to full-size pickups. But wait a year and the truck will be available with a four-cylinder diesel that should enhance its "truckiness"—and provide better fuel economy.

Still, it's already the best pickup in the midsize segment and a massive improvement over the last Colorado.

It's also a truck you don't need boots to drive.

MOTORING Q&A

Engine break-in concept not obsolete

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

From reader Ron Rowlands comes an excellent question to start the new year.

Q: I was very interested in your comments on "engine break-ins." I would not be quite so quick to dismiss break-in as obsolete.

I am a nerdy retired engineer and keep data on the maintenance and operation of the cars I own. In September 2007 I purchased a new 2008 Acura TSX with the 2.4-liter 4-cylinder engine. I was interested in whether or not I could observe any break-in behavior. It took approximately 12 months and 17,000 miles to fully break-in the car. When I plotted miles per day vs. miles per gallon, I got a mathematical curve that seemed to make sense. As miles per day increased, so did mpg, a not totally unexpected result. The relationship was not linear but looked more like logarithms. I threw out the first 16,000 miles of data so that the curve represents only the values for

the broken-in engine. Then I went back and calculated an expected value of mpg for every fill-up, then checked the actual mpg for that fill-up and plotted this ratio for every fill-up vs. time.

This plot is still somewhat noisy, but overall it starts around 0.9 (the actual mpg was nine-tenths of the expected) and rises steadily over the first year to a value of 1.0 (the mpg equals the expected value). The average of the curve has varied not more than 2 percent since then.

A. The toughest part of answering was to edit down the original question to a manageable/publishable size—and still keep the information understandable and accurate. I sincerely hope I've done so.

The data and conclusion are extremely interesting—thank you, Ron. You appear to have mathematically confirmed that miles-per-gallon improvement is due to the cumulative effect of all drivetrain components getting 'comfortable' with each other—not just the

engine. Engine, transmission, differential, hubs, bearings and all rotating, reciprocating and geared components will 'wear-in' during thousands of miles of normal driving—not during a relatively short initial driving cycle specifically designed for 'break-in'—then stay 'happy' for tens of thousands of miles.

Years ago during a rebuild on one of my race engines, I failed to adequately hone one of the cylinder walls before installing new piston rings. When the engine was first started, the rings did not 'seat' properly, allowing excess oil past the rings, quickly fouling the spark plug in that cylinder. I disassembled the engine after a total of three minutes of operation and was quite surprised to find wear on the new rod bearings appeared identical to wear on the bearings I had replaced after six hours of operation.

As your data confirms, the concept of "break-in" isn't obsolete—it occurs during the first several thousands of miles of normal driving. Today's vehicles and engines don't re-

quire a specific driving cycle or break-in period to deliver full service life.

Q. Last summer I bought a 2009 Kia Spectra with 59,000 miles on it. Am I safe in assuming that all the regular manufacturer-recommended 50,000-mile maintenance has already been performed or is my vehicle due for its 50,000 maintenance check-up? I have kept up with the oil changes.

A. Having made a career of purchasing and driving used vehicles, the answer to this question is simple. Unless the service invoices/maintenance records are in the glove box or you can confirm the maintenance was performed through a VIN number check with a Kia dealer, you should assume the manufacturer-recommended maintenance has not been done.

Your Kia's maintenance schedule calls for replacing the air filter every 30,000 miles, cabin filter every 10,000 miles and engine oil and filter every 7,500 miles. The remaining scheduled maintenance in the 45,000 to 50,000 miles range is a series of inspections, many of which you could do yourself, and tire rotation.



Life & Style

Longtime ESPN sportscaster Scott dies at 49

By **RICK FREEMAN**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Stuart Scott was in his element, working a “Monday Night Football” game, when he was forced to leave for an appendix operation.

Doctors discovered a tumor during surgery and Scott was diagnosed with cancer. But he made a point of continuing to live his life—at work and outside of it.

“You beat cancer by how you live,” he would later say. “So live. Live. Fight like hell.”

That fight ended Sunday when Scott, the longtime “SportsCenter” anchor and ESPN personality known for his enthusiasm and ubiquity, died at age 49.

Scott remained dedicated to his craft even as he suffered through chemotherapy, radiation and surgery.

ESPN President John Skipper said in a statement that Scott was “a true friend and a uniquely inspirational figure” and that his “energetic and unwavering devotion to his family and to his work while fighting the battle of his life left us in awe, and he leaves a void that can never be replaced.”

Skipper also marveled at Scott’s dedication to keep fighting—literally.

“Who engages in mixed martial arts training in the midst of chemotherapy treatments?” Skipper said. “Who leaves a hospital

procedure to return to the set?”

Fans and players at games around the United States on Sunday stopped to observe moments of silence, including at the Bengals-Colts NFL playoff game in Indianapolis, Lions-Cowboys in Arlington, Texas; the Mavericks-Cavaliers NBA game in Cleveland and at several college basketball games.

Some of the world’s most famous athletes expressed their grief online. LeBron James wrote on Instagram: “Thank you so much for being u and giving us inner city kids someone we could relate to that wasn’t a player but was close enough to them.”

“Stuart wasn’t covering heroes & champions, it was the other way around,” Tiger Woods said on Twitter.

In July, Scott accepted the Jimmy V Perseverance Award at the ESPYs. During his speech, he told his teenage daughters: “Taelor and Sydni, I love you guys more than I will ever be able to express. You two are my heart-beat. I am standing on this stage here tonight because of you.”

Scott is also survived by his parents, O. Ray and Jacqueline Scott; siblings Stephen Scott, Synthia Kearney and Susan Scott; his daughters Taelor, 19, and Sydni, 15; and girlfriend Kristin Spodobalski.

On Sunday morning, NFL Network broadcaster Rich



In a July 16, 2014 file photo, sportscaster Stuart Scott accepts the Jimmy V award for perseverance, at the ESPY Awards at the Nokia Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Eisen’s voice broke as he reported the death of his good friend, with whom he worked on “SportsCenter” broadcasts.

“I love this man,” Eisen said.

ESPN anchor Hannah Storm called him “our colleague, our friend and our inspiration” as she reported the news. On the network’s NFL pregame show, Chris Berman said, “Stuart made ESPN what it is, he made us better people.”

Before North Carolina’s women’s basketball team tipped off against N.C. State, the arena

observed a moment of silence for Scott, and the videoboard proclaimed the 1987 graduate “Forever a Tar Heel.”

Born in Chicago, Scott attended high school in North Carolina before going to UNC. He returned to Chapel Hill as the university’s commencement speaker in 2001.

Scott worked at three TV stations in the southern U.S. before joining ESPN for the 1993 launch of its ESPN2 network, hosting short sports update segments.

He often anchored the 11 p.m. “SportsCenter,” where he would punctuate highlights with an emphatic “Boo-ya!” or note a slick move as being “as cool as

the other side of the pillow.”

Scott went on to cover countless major events for the network, including the Super Bowl, NBA Finals, World Series and NCAA basketball tournament. He also interviewed President Barack Obama, joining him for a televised game of one on one.

“I will miss Stuart Scott,” Obama said in a statement. “Stu helped usher in a new way to talk about our favorite teams and the day’s best plays. For much of those 20 years, public service and campaigns have kept me from my family—but wherever I went, I could flip on the TV and Stu and his colleagues on “SportsCenter” were there. ... Michelle and I offer our thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and colleagues.”

In July, when he accepted the ESPY award named for former N.C. State coach Jim Valvano, who died of cancer in 1993, Scott shared what he had learned from his struggle: “When you die, that does not mean that you lose to cancer. You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and the manner in which you live.

“So live. Live. Fight like hell.”

Poet Miller Williams dies in Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Arkansas poet Miller Williams, a prolific writer and teacher who read a poem at President Bill Clinton’s 1997 inauguration, has died. He was 84.

Williams, the father of singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams, died Thursday night at a hospital in Fayetteville of complications from Alzheimer’s disease, family friend Linda Sheets said Friday. Williams was a longtime professor at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

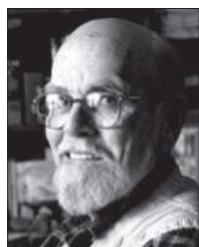
He helped found the university’s publishing arm, the University of Arkansas Press, in 1980, and directed it for almost 20 years. He has written, translated or edited more than 30 books, including a dozen poetry collections, according to the Poetry Foundation.

“He was always willing to read a poem or write a poem if someone asked,” daughter Karyn Williams said. “I just remember people always being at our house, whether it was visiting writers or professors or just people out of luck. He was always willing to give

a helping hand.”

Clinton chose his friend to read his poem “Of History and Hope” at the 1997 inauguration, making him just the third inaugural poet.

“We mean to be the people we meant to be, to keep on going where we meant to go,” the poem reads.



Williams

Clinton called Williams “one of America’s great poets.”

“I will always be grateful for his friendship, which began in 1973 when we were both teaching at the University of Arkansas, and for

his beautiful reading at my second inaugural. His words are as meaningful today as they were nearly 20 years ago,” Clinton said in a written statement.

Williams, who had campaigned for Clinton’s unsuccessful 1974 congressional bid, said in a 2013 interview that he wanted the poem to be a “consideration of how a look at a nation’s past might help determine where it could be led in the future.

“I knew that the poem would be listened to by a great many

people, reprinted around the country, and discussed in a lot of classrooms, so I wanted it to be true, understandable, and agreeable,” Williams told the Oxford American magazine in an interview.

University of Arkansas Chancellor David Gearhart praised Miller as “an icon among our academic community,” saying the country had “lost a true talent and an incredible human being.”

Lucinda Williams last year put her father’s poem “Compassion” to music as the lead cut on her latest album. Williams said her father had told her recently that Alzheimer’s disease had robbed him of his ability to write poetry.

“I started crying when he told me that,” she said last year. “I just bawled like a baby. I couldn’t believe it. This was my dad, the poet. It was like someone saying that he couldn’t see anymore. It was part of him that was just gone. It’s like a part of him died. That’s why this is so important to me.”

Along with his two daughters, Williams is survived by his wife, Jordan, and his son, Robert.

In Humble Gratitude

We, the Family of the late

†Susana T. Castro

would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our families and friends, near and far, for your kindness, support and words of encouragement during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expression of sympathy, kindness and prayer has deeply touched us. We are eternally indebted to you all.

You will always be remembered by the family of the late †Susana T. Castro who rests in peace.

May God Bless You All!

Thank you & Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

'The Hobbit' tops box office for 3rd weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—Hollywood kicked off the New Year on a positive note, with three films vying closely for the weekend box-office title that nevertheless remained with "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" for the third straight week.

Peter Jackson's Middle-earth finale took in \$21.9 million for Warner Bros. in North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday, narrowly edging out the Disney musical "Into the Woods" (\$19.1 million) and Angelina Jolie's World War II tale "Unbroken" (\$18.4 million) from Universal.

The weekend's lone new wide-release, the Relativity Media horror sequel "The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death," landed in fourth place with \$15.1 million.

The first weekend of 2015 gave Hollywood the chance to begin turning the page on a rough 2014 in which box-office revenue slid 5 percent and attendance dropped to its lowest level in nearly 20 years. With a closely contested weekend at the multiplexes, overall business was strong, up 5.5 percent from the same weekend last year, according to box-office firm Rentrak.

In its second week of limited release, Sony Pictures' "The Interview" earned an estimated \$1.1 million theatrically. A representative for Sony said digital



This photo provided by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Luke Evans, center, as Bard in the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," a production of New Line Cinema and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures (MGM), releases by Warner Bros. Pictures and MGM.

figures likely wouldn't be announced Sunday.

In its first four days of online streaming and sale, the comedy made \$15 million, Sony said last week. Since then, the film has expanded to video-on-demand via cable operators and on more digital platforms like Apple's iTunes.

Several Oscar contenders began to attract larger numbers of moviegoers, as Hollywood's awards season picks up steam. The Golden Globes are Sunday, Jan. 11.

Playing at 754 theaters, "The Imitation Game," the Wein-

stein Co.'s code-breaker thriller about World War II hero Alan Turing took in \$8.1 million in its sixth week. (By comparison, "The Hobbit" played at more than 3,800 theaters.) The Reese Witherspoon drama "Wild" also added \$4.5 million for a five-week \$25.8 million total for Fox Searchlight.

Opening in limited release at four locations, J.C. Chandor's New York thriller "A Most Violent Year" debuted with a theater average of \$47,000. The acclaimed A24 release, starring Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain, will soon expand.

Demand, though, was strongest for "American Sniper," Clint Eastwood's drama about Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper). In its second week playing in just four theaters, "American Sniper" attracted a remarkable \$160,000 per-screen-average. The film opens wide on January 16.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," \$21.9 million (\$52.5 million international). 2. "Into the Woods" \$19.1 million (\$1 million international). 3. "Unbroken," \$18.4 million (\$2.3 million international). 4. "The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death," \$15.1 million (\$3.5 million international). 5. "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb," \$14.5 million (\$26 million international). 6. "Annie," \$11.4 million (\$4.2 million international). 7. "The Imitation Game," \$8.1 million (\$6.5 million international). 8. "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1," \$7.7 million (\$5.3 million international). | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. "The Gambler," \$6.3 million. 10. "Big Hero 6," \$4.8 million (\$20.2 million international). <p>Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," \$52.5 million. 2. "Exodus: Gods and Kings," \$31.5 million. 3. "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb," \$26 million. 3. "The Taking of Tiger Mountain," \$23.8 million. 4. "Penguins of Madagascar," \$23 million. 5. "Big Hero 6," \$20.2 million. 6. "Seventh Son," \$18.6 million. 7. "International Market," \$18.3 million. 8. "Paddington," \$12.5 million. 9. "Taken 3," \$9.5 million. 10. "P.K.," \$8.9 million. |
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Brad Pitt leads sing-along at film-awards gala

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—The first star-studded film-award ceremony of the new year was literally something to sing about.

While not an honoree himself, actor-producer Brad Pitt stole the spotlight with a sing-along for a few moments Saturday night at the annual black-tie gala for the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Pitt traveled some 100 miles east of Los Angeles to the desert town of Palm Springs, Califor-

nia, to introduce actor David Oyelowo, an honoree at the gala whose profile is only now on the rise stateside.

Pitt is a producer of director Ava DuVernay's historical epic "Selma," in which British actor Oyelowo portrays civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The festival honored Oyelowo with its Breakthrough Performance Award for an actor.

In his introduction, Pitt professed his admiration for Oyelowo—both as colleague and

friend—and, at one point, Pitt led the audience in a sing-along with lyrics spinning around Oyelowo's often-mispronounced last name. (It sounds like "oh-yellow-oh," by the way).

The gala, which attracts numerous locally based Academy voters who now have ballots in hand, traditionally is the first of each calendar year's award-season ceremonies, which include approximately two-dozen events significant enough to attract major movie stars between

now and the Oscars, set for Feb. 22 in Hollywood.

"This is the first time I am a part of (the two-month award season)," said Morton Tyldum, director of the Golden Globe-nominated drama "The Imitation Game" earlier in the evening while doing red carpet interviews. "When I saw the schedule," Tyldum continued, "I was in shock."

Not so award-season veteran and Palm Springs honoree Reese Witherspoon ("Wild"), who said, "It's a great opportunity for all of us to get together and celebrate this wonderful year of film."

The actress, an Oscar winner for "Walk the Line" (2005), said, "Wonderful performances, wonderful direction and producing. And I feel like it has been a real great, strong year."

At points, love was in the air on the red carpet, as festival honoree Eddie Redmayne ("The Theory of Everything") posed for photographers with his new wife, public-relations executive Hannah Bagshawe, and "Imitation" star Benedict Cumberbatch, briefly stopped for a few snaps with his fiancée, theater director Sophie Hunter.

Oyelowo actually did two photo sessions: one with wife, actress Jessica Oyelowo, and three of their four children. The actor returned to pose for photos with DuVernay.

'Real Housewives' star set to make prison her new home

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—One of New Jersey's reality TV stars is about to exchange her designer threads for prison garb.

Teresa Giudice, a cast member of Bravo's "Real Housewives of New Jersey," is scheduled to report to a federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut, on Monday morning to begin serving a 15-month sentence for bankruptcy fraud. She and husband Giuseppe "Joe" Giudice pleaded guilty last year and admitted hiding assets from bankruptcy creditors and submitting phony loan applications to get some \$5 million in mortgages and construction loans. Joe Giudice also pleaded guilty to failing to pay taxes totaling more than \$200,000.

At the Giudices' sentencing in October, U.S. District Judge Esther Salas criticized the couple for not disclosing

all their assets as required under their plea agreement, calling it "the same pattern of obstruction, concealment and manipulation as they showed in the bankruptcy case."

Still, Salas sentenced Teresa Giudice to a sentence below the range sought by the U.S. attorney's office and staggered her sentence with her husband's so they wouldn't be in prison at the same time and unable to care for their four daughters. Joe Giudice will serve his 41-month sentence after his wife's sentence is completed.

Joe Giudice is not an American citizen, and he faces an immigration hearing when he completes his sentence and likely will be deported. His attorney has said Giudice came to the U.S. as an infant and didn't know he wasn't an American citizen until he was an adult.



Brad Pitt, right, presents the breakthrough performance award - actor to David Oyelowo for "Selma" at the 26th annual Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, in Palm Springs, Calif.



This Jan. 4, 2012, photo shows Teresa Giudice posing for a portrait in New York.

Palace: Sex claims against Prince Andrew false

LONDON (AP)—Buckingham Palace on Sunday stepped up efforts to defend Prince Andrew after the British royal was embroiled in claims of sexual impropriety with an underage woman.

In a second statement since the claims surfaced, officials “emphatically denied” allegations by an unidentified woman who said she was forced to have sex with the royal when she was under the age of 18.

The woman named 54-year-old Prince Andrew, known as the Duke of York, in papers filed with a Florida court last week. The filing was submitted as part of a lengthy lawsuit against American financier Jeffrey Epstein, who the woman claims forced her to have sex with prominent people, including Prince Andrew. The woman was only identified as “Jane Doe Number 3” in the papers.

She has also claims she was

forced to have sex with Alan Dershowitz, a high-profile, 76-year-old lawyer who has represented clients including O.J. Simpson.

“I categorically and unequivocally, without any reservations, deny that there was any sexual contract of any kind between me and any of the Jane Does connected with Jeffrey Epstein, whether underage or not,” Dershowitz told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Dershowitz, professor emeritus at Harvard Law School, said he is filing a disbarment complaint against the attorneys who filed the motion in the lawsuit as well as an affidavit denying the allegations.

“I am challenging the woman to come forward and state it publicly and to file criminal charges against me.” He said he has agreed to waive the statute of limitations and to waive immunity, which he said no guilty person would do.



AP
In this Wednesday, June 6, 2012 file photo, Britain's Prince Andrew leaves King Edward VII hospital in London after visiting his father Prince Philip.

“I have no fear. I have nothing to hide,” Dershowitz said.

Royal officials on Friday denied “any suggestion of impropriety with underage minors” by Andrew, and strengthened that stance Sunday after two tabloid newspapers published details of interviews with the alleged victim. The controversy has dominated British news coverage since Friday.

“It is emphatically denied that the Duke of York had any form of sexual contact or relationship with (the woman),” Buckingham Palace said in a statement. “The allegations made are false and without any foundation.”

The statements are unusual because royal spokespeople typically refrain from commenting on most media reports.

The woman claims she was forced to have sex with the royal in London, in New York and on a private Caribbean island between 1999 to 2002.

Those claims were filed with a court on Tuesday as part of a lawsuit centering on Epstein. The billionaire financier was sentenced to 18 months in prison in 2008 after pleading guilty to child sex offenses, but several women want authorities to reconsider a plea deal that they said allowed Epstein to avoid more serious federal charges. Dershowitz represented Epstein in that case.

Dershowitz and Andrew are not named as defendants in that case, and no criminal charges or formal allegations have been made against them.

The prince, who is Queen Elizabeth II's second son and fifth in line to the throne, has been dogged for years over his relationship with Epstein. In July 2011, the royal stepped down from his role as a U.K. trade ambassador following controversy over his links with the billionaire.

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg starts reading program

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Zuckerberg wants to add a little more “book” to Facebook.

The Facebook founder and CEO announced on his page recently that he has vowed to read a book every other week in 2015, with an emphasis on learning about different beliefs, cultures and technologies.

Zuckerberg created a page called “A Year of Books” and urged his friends to join him in the project. As of late Sunday afternoon, it had more than 100,000 likes.

“I’m excited for my reading challenge,” Zuckerberg wrote. “I’ve found reading books very intellectually fulfilling. Books allow you to fully explore a topic and immerse yourself in a deeper way than most media today. I’m looking forward to shifting more of my media diet towards reading books.”

The first book in his program,

Moises Naim’s “The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being In Charge Isn’t What It Used to Be,” was out of stock Sunday on Amazon.com and had a sales ranking of No. 123. “The End of Power” was listed among Amazon’s “movers & shakers” Sunday for books making the biggest gains

on the best-seller list.

“The Venezuelan-born Naim is an award-winning columnist, author and television host, a former trade minister in his native country and currently a distinguished fellow in the International Economics Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. “The End of Power” was first published

by Basic Books in 2013.

“It’s a book that explores how the world is shifting to give individual people more power that was traditionally only held by large governments, militaries and other organizations,” Zuckerberg wrote. “The trend toward giving people more power is one I believe in deeply.”

Zuckerberg’s literary tastes include classics from ancient Greece and Rome, biographies, celebrity memoirs and science and science fiction. He has called Virgil’s “The Aeneid” his favorite book and has quoted from it during interviews. His “likes” range from Plato to Orson Scott Card’s novel “Ender’s Game.” According to his Facebook page, books he has read include Jay-Z’s “Decoded,” Walter Isaacson’s best-selling biography of Albert Einstein and science writer’s James Gleick’s “The Information.”

In a Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014 file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks to students during a special assembly at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, Calif.



AP

Emma Stone extends her run as Bowles in Broadway's 'Cabaret'

By MARK KENNEDY
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Emma Stone plans to stick around the Kit Kat Klub—she’s extending her stay in the current Broadway revival of “Cabaret.”

Roundabout Theatre Company said Monday that Stone will now star as Sally Bowles for an additional two weeks through Feb. 15. The actress who will finish the show’s run through March 29 will be announced later.

Stone, known for her films including “The Amazing Spiderman 2,” “Crazy, Stupid, Love” and “Easy A,” took over the role from Michelle Williams in November.

Set in 1931 Berlin, “Cabaret” centers on the world of the indulgent Kit Kat Klub as it becomes intertwined with the world outside, which gets more precarious



AP

This Nov. 11, 2014, file photo shows Emma Stone appearing at the curtain call following her debut performance in Broadway’s “Cabaret” in New York.

as Nazis take over. The songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb include “Willkommen” and “Tomorrow Belongs to Me.”

Moody new husband shows warning signs of an abuser

DEAR ABBY: I was single for four years and recently remarried. I didn’t intend to marry again, but then I met “Bob.” He was so kind and attentive that I was attracted. He proposed to me every day, several times a day, and eight months later I married him.

Bob moved here from out of state and hasn’t been able to find work. It has been challenging. My daughter lives with us and is in college.

Bob’s mood swings have been drastic lately. He doesn’t want me to talk to anyone else, do anything without him (hang with my friends, my daughter, etc.). I have a great job and work part-time in the evenings to make ends meet. I try to stay calm, but he yells, uses profanity and is highly manipulative.

I am at a loss. I would like to help him, but his depression is tearing us apart. I also believe he is addicted to marijuana. He has threatened suicide, but I don’t know if he would actually go through with it.

Abby, I have worked very hard to get where I am. I know I need to take care of myself and my daughter, but I don’t want to just throw this away, either. Help!

TORN IN TWO IN TEXAS

DEAR TORN IN TWO: Without more information, it’s hard to tell whether your husband’s depression makes him act the way he does, or whether you have been seduced by an abuser.

Among the warning signs of an abuser are:

- **Pushes for quick involvement;**
- **Isolation:** tries to isolate you from friends or family members;
- **Makes others responsible for his/her feelings:** The abuser says, “YOU make me angry” instead of “I am angry,” or, “You’re hurting me by not doing what I tell you”;
- **Hypersensitivity:** is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life;
- **Verbal abuse:** constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things—degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. May also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless verbal abuse;
- **Sudden mood swings:** switches from sweet to violent within minutes.

This is only a partial list—there are 15 in all, which is too long for this column. However, they can be precursors to serious physical violence.

Urge your husband to get counseling for his depression and insecurity. If he refuses, then be smart and contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or online at thehotline.org for help in safely separating from him before your husband’s behavior escalates.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: At a black-tie-optional wedding, is it appropriate for a man to come wearing a cowboy hat and keep it on at the dinner table?

CURIOUS IN PALM DESERT

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR CURIOUS: Hat etiquette decrees that it should be removed when a man is indoors. And according to The Campfire Chronicle (at stargazermmercantile.com), “If you’re in a restaurant that serves anything that isn’t coated in barbecue sauce, it’s probably best to lose the hat.”

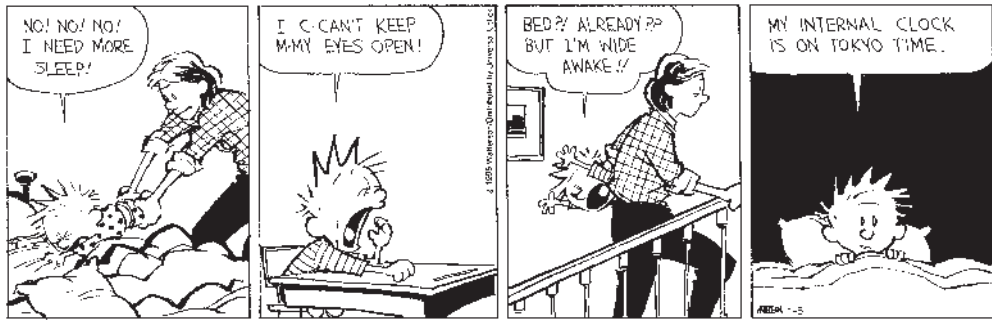
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



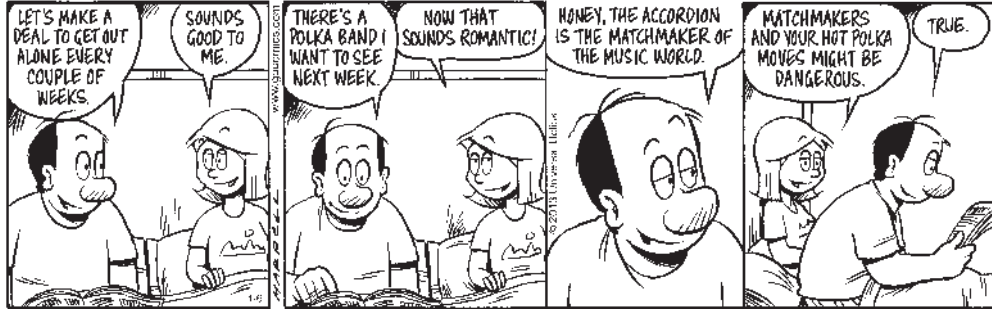
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



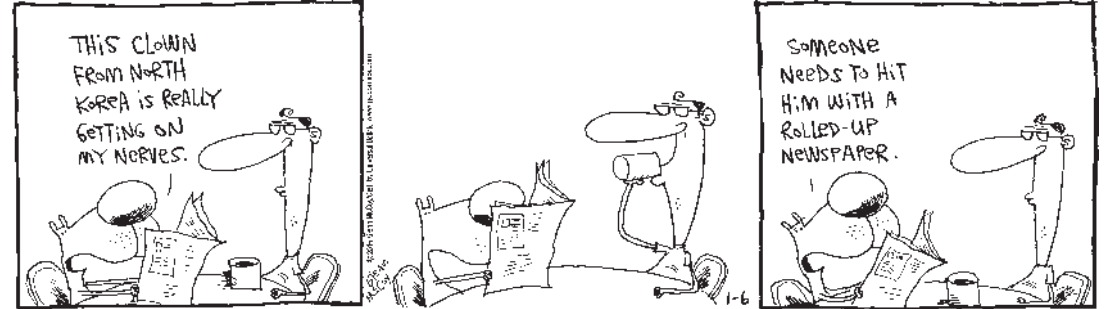
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

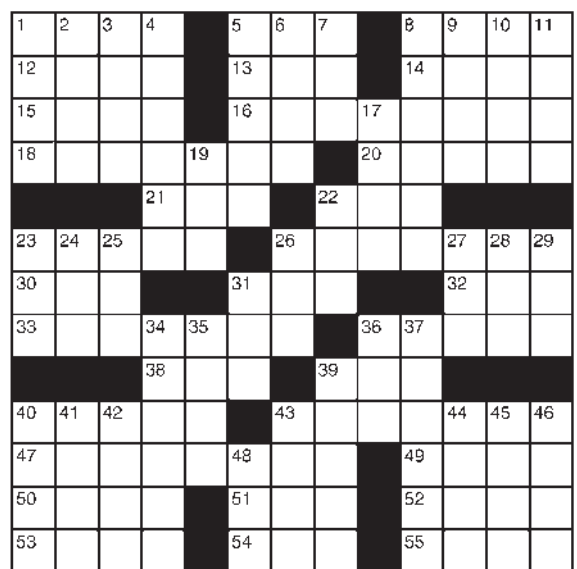
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Knocks
5 Glutton
8 Disgusting deposit
12 Exam format
13 Wall climber
14 Entice
15 Mah-jongg piece
16 Quest for votes
18 "Avatar" director
20 Monday (Sp.)
21 Youngster
22 Astronaut
23 Spectrum creator
26 King Arthur's home
30 — bind
31 Abrade
32 Shock partner
33 Moth repellent
36 Made music, as 39-Across did
- DOWN**
- 38 Help
39 Greek
40 Cabbage recipes
43 Variety of linen
47 Undergarment
49 Artist
50 Portent
51 Sheepish remark
52 Satanic
53 Designer Vera
54 Hostel
55 Student's place
2 Met melody
3 Date tree
4 Falls as rain
5 Embroidery loop
6 Terrible guy?
7 Workout venue
8 Contract section
9 Destroy
10 Incite
11 Lairs
17 Jack Horner's prize
19 Computer acronym
22 Talk on and on
23 Selfie, e.g.
24 Genetic stuff
25 Descartes' conclusion
26 Mongrel
27 Once around
28 Have bills
29 Koppel or Kennedy
31 Scepter
34 Handling clumsily
35 Greet the villain
36 Nonstick spray name
37 Congenital
39 Hymn of joy
40 Garbage barge
41 Dalai —
42 Prayer ending
43 Family
44 Wander
45 Wife of Osiris
46 Make leakproof (var.)
48 Japanese sash

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-6



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julie Chen, 45; Gabrielle Reece, 45; John Singleton, 47; Rowan Atkinson, 60.

Happy Birthday: Think outside the box and don't fear sharing obscure ideas. The element of surprise will help you separate the people willing to follow you from those who won't. Don't feel you have to look beyond your local setting or community. Everything you need and want is within reach. Express your desires and nurture your personal relationships. Your numbers are 3, 12, 16, 21, 25, 32, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Being helpful will lead to an opportunity that can prove prosperous. Socialize with people who work in the same industry as you. Love and romance is on the rise and sharing your feelings will result in a positive lifestyle change. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Learn by being observant. Practicality will make a difference to the way situations unfold around you. Communication problems will escalate if you disagree or let emotions take over. Focus on accomplishments. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Travel, excitement and sharing your feelings will improve your relationships with the people you care about the most. Express your ideas and plans and put them into motion. Actions speak louder than words, and romance is highlighted. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep an open mind, but don't make impulsive changes based on what others do or say.

Be creative and opt to do your own thing. Originality will play in your favor as the day comes to a close. Emotional decisions will end up being costly. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think about the people in your life and the things you enjoy doing most. It's OK to work hard, but playing hard will also help you maintain a healthy attitude, balance and a better chance to achieve your goals. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen to what's being asked of you. Someone may try to take advantage of you. Take care of your responsibilities, but don't give in to unrealistic demands. Socialize, but set a budget and stick to it. An emotional matter will escalate quickly. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Diplomacy will help you maneuver your way through a sticky situation and bring the change required to achieve a happier personal life. Put extra time and energy into a project and it will ensure you are pleased with the outcome. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be enticed by an empty promise. Show resilience and resourcefulness and you will get your way. An interesting business move based on a unique concept will position you for success. You have more to offer than you realize. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can play the game of life and win, but don't boast. Showing gratitude will add to your popularity and bring you future prospects. Use your charm, intelligence and disci-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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pline to bring about positive change. Romance is in the stars. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Know your limitations and strategize to get around any setbacks that might deter you from completing what needs to be done before you make any big changes. Partnerships will play an important role in your life. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take advantage of a chance to improve your life and your current position. Increased responsibility will lead to a higher standard of living and an opportunity to impress someone you want to form a closer relationship with. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A change will surprise you, but don't let it dictate your next move. Follow your heart and you'll achieve peace of mind. Consider how you can help others in order to get something that will be beneficial to you in return. 3 stars

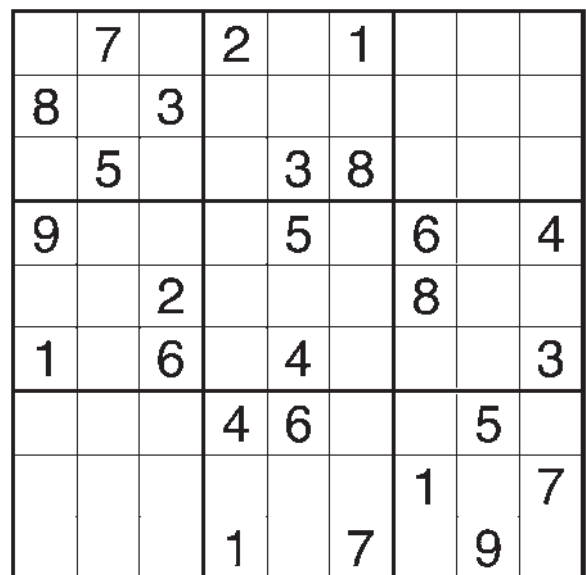
Birthday Baby: You are shrewd and unpredictable. You are courageous, adaptable and playful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

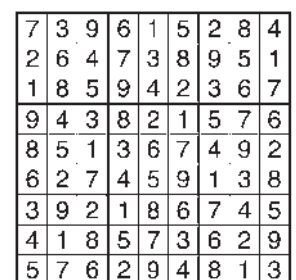


Difficulty Level ★★

1/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

1/06

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FARRIERS

Solution: 11 letters



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1/6
Anvil, Attach, Bellows, Care, Cattle, Caulks, Chaps, Clinch, Footing, Forge, Forming, Glue, Heat, Heels, Hoof, Hooves, Horses, Jump, Knife, Lightweight, Pincer, Plastic, Plates, Polo, Press, Pritchell, Pull Offs, Racers, Rasp, Repair, Reset, Rock, Rollers, Routine, Rubber, Screwdriver, Shoes, Smoothing, Sole, Steel, Titanium, Tools, Truck, U-shaped
Yesterday's Answer: Inactive
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following position.

Multimedia Communications Coordinator

1. Primary responsibility is to oversee all media production and office communications.
2. Coordinate all aspects of print and electronic publication to include, but not limited to designing, editing, printing and distribution of interoffice memos, letters and informational brochures.
3. Perform as photographer at events, ceremonies and other activities for use in all media formats and coordinate professional photography upon request.
4. Assist in video and audio production for company events and activities.
5. Assist with planning, logistics, coordination and execution of event day responsibilities for events, ceremonies and other activities.
6. Coordinate film production team visits and execution.
7. Provide translation services for internal and external clients.
8. Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Job Requirements

Required:
Bachelor's degree in mass communications (film, TV, advertising), journalism, or related field and five (5) years of professional experience in communications or related field, or the equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job. Proficient with desktop publishing software including Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Office software. Strong written and oral communication skills.

Preferred:
Fluency in English, Mandarin, Cantonese.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

WHATZIT? Solution: Houdini

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• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

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CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Saipan Tribune

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-001

Opening Date : Tuesday, January 06, 2015
Closing Date : Thursday, January 08, 2015

Trades Technician
(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs control room operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads... Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing, exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$20,826 to \$28,115 per annum.

POSITIONS : One (1)

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing mechanical duties. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Romo, Cowboys rally past Lion in wild card



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Face-down on the turf, Tony Romo pounded his hands into the ground like a petulant child.

Frustrated by yet another season-ending failure? Far from it. The Dallas quarterback was celebrating after giving the Cowboys the lead in a stirring playoff comeback.

Romo threw two touchdown passes to Terrance Williams, the second for the lead late in the fourth quarter, and the Cowboys rallied for a 24-20 wild-card win over Detroit on Sunday in their first playoff game in five years.

Dallas (13-4) wiped out an early two-touchdown deficit to advance to a divisional game in Green Bay, their first postseason visit there since a heart-breaking loss to the Packers in the Ice Bowl in 1967.

"You just have to stay in the moment and understand the game," Romo said. "It doesn't end after the first quarter, second quarter. You just have to keep calm. I've played enough games to understand that. Maybe I didn't do that as well when I was younger."

The Lions (11-6) went 99 yards for one of two first-quarter touchdowns, but Matthew Stafford couldn't get them in the end zone again.

Detroit was driving with a 20-17 lead midway through the fourth quarter when referee Pete Morelli announced a pass interference penalty against Anthony Hitchens on a third-down pass to Brandon Pettigrew. But officials reversed the call without explanation, and Sam Martin had a 10-yard punt after the Lions tried to draw Dallas off-side on fourth-and-1.

Pettigrew said he didn't get an explanation, while Lions coach Jim Caldwell said he did - but didn't like it.

"Not a good enough one. I'm going to leave it at that," Caldwell said. "I'm not going to sit up here and act like that was the play that made a difference in the game. We still had our chances."

Romo took the Cowboys 59 yards in 11 plays, including a 21-yard pass to Jason Witten on fourth-and-6. The winner to Williams was an 8-yarder after Romo had several seconds to throw behind an offensive line among the league's best because Dallas has drafted linemen in the first round three of the past four years.

The Cowboys had to wait a little longer to celebrate. Rookie DeMarcus Lawrence gave the Lions the ball back with a fumble following Anthony Spencer's sack that knocked the ball loose from Stafford, who was 28 of 42 for 323 yards playing against his hometown team.

Lawrence redeemed himself on the clincher, sacking Stafford on fourth



Dallas Cowboys defensive end Demarcus Lawrence (90) sacks Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford (9) during the second half of an NFL wildcard playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Arlington, Texas. The Cowboys won, 24-20.

down near midfield in the final minute.

The Lions have not won a playoff game since the 1991 season, when they beat Dallas.

Dallas rode quick starts to a 4-0 December that carried it to the NFC East title, but a sluggish first quarter put the Cowboys in a hole.

Golden Tate bounced up from a flattening hit by C.J. Spillman on a punt return and beat Barry Church on a 51-yard pass to open the scoring. Church called out Tate on his radio show earlier in the week, saying the Cowboys were going to pay him back for a blindside block on linebacker Sean Lee that got Tate fined three years ago when he was with Seattle.

The Lions went up 14-0 on a drive that amounted to 99 3/4 yards. After Dekoda Watson ran into Martin to keep the drive alive, the 14-play drive ended with Reggie Bush badly faking Orlando Scandrick

on an 18-yard scoring run.

Williams (three catches for 92 yards) pulled the Cowboys within seven when he took a short pass from Romo 76 yards to the end zone.

NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray slogged his way to 75 yards on 19 carries against the NFL's best run defense, including a 1-yard plunge on fourth down that pulled Dallas to 20-14 late in the third quarter.

The Cowboys were coming off three straight 8-8 seasons that ended with losses that kept them out of the playoffs, with Romo on the field for two of them.

"I'm thrilled for him," said owner Jerry Jones, who gave Romo the first \$100 million contract in franchise history almost two years ago. "He whispered in my ear that he'll call me tonight, so I want to share how happy I am."

The 34-year-old who had back surgery

in December 2013 and missed one game with another back injury this season, endured a season-high six sacks. Two were on consecutive plays in the fourth quarter by Ndamukong Suh, who was suspended Monday for stepping on Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers, but reinstated a day later.

"I'm speechless," a tearful Suh said after walking away from the podium and then returning. "Defense put it all out there. This team put it all out there. ... I didn't expect this outcome."

Colts 26, Bengals 10

In Indianapolis, when Andrew Luck was under pressure Sunday, he stood tall and maintained his poise.

Andy Dalton and the Bengals simply collapsed. Again.

Luck delivered a game-changing touchdown pass as he was headed to the turf, and Indianapolis' defense

dominated the rest of the game as the Colts roared past Cincinnati 26-10 and into the divisional playoff round.

"The one magical play was when Andrew was at his finest," said coach Chuck Pagano, whose team heads to Denver next Sunday. "He's a maestro. He's unbelievable back there."

For Cincinnati, a bedeviling postseason curse continued.

The Bengals (10-6-1) became the first team in NFL history to lose four consecutive opening-round games. Dalton tied Warren Moon for the most consecutive opening-round playoff losses by a quarterback, dropping to 0-4 all-time.

Coach Marvin Lewis tied Marty Schottenheimer, Jim Mora and Steven Owen for most consecutive playoff losses (six) by a coach. Lewis also tied Mora, the former Colts coach, for most consecutive playoff losses to start a career, and tied Owen for most consecutive playoff losses with one team.

They haven't won a playoff game since January 1991.

"It's kind of like missing a field goal that you should have hit," Cincinnati kicker Mike Nugent said after setting a franchise record late in the first half with a 57-yard field goal that got the Bengals within 13-10.

But the glaring difference between the postseason success for Luck and the Colts (12-5), and the postseason failures for Dalton and the Bengals was never more apparent than on two big plays in the third quarter.

On second-and-10 from the Bengals 36, Luck floated a perfect pass to the corner of the end zone as Carlos Dunlap started to take him to the turf. Rookie receiver Donte Moncrief sprinted across the field and cradled the ball for the score that gave Indy a 20-10 lead.

"I sort of stepped up in a crease there, saw Donte running his butt off and tried to put it in a spot where only he could get it," Luck said. "He does such a great job of running underneath those balls and we had the touch."

On the next Bengals plays, Dalton had Brandon Tate open deep down the middle on a flea-flicker. But instead of scoring, Colts cornerback Greg Toler raced over and broke up the underthrown pass. Three plays later, the Bengals punted. They never seriously challenged again.

"I thought he (Dalton) hung in there," Lewis said. "I thought he made plays with his feet. I thought he made plays throwing the football, and I thought he played a good football game."

Dalton, whose two top receivers were inactive, finished 18 of 35 with 155 yards and lost a fumble on a day the Bengals managed only 98 total yards and five first downs in the second half.

Giants out on James Shields and Max Scherzer



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The top two free agents still available

are starting pitchers James Shields and Max Scherzer, and though it appears neither is anywhere near the finish line in terms of finalizing a deal, it sounds like we can safely eliminate one major potential suitor from their lists.

According to ESPN's Jim Bowden, the defending World Series champion San Francisco Giants are out, or more specifically,

they're out on Shields, and were never really in on Scherzer.

If all true, that's notable information. After making a strong push to sign Jon Lester, San Francisco was fully expected to compete for the services of Shields, with Scherzer considered a long shot given his \$200 million asking price. Now it would appear they're going to miss out on all three, leaving the re-signing of Jake Peavy to a two-year, \$24 million as their biggest offseason move. Not that Peavy is a bad consolation, but San Francisco's

aspirations have been much higher. In addition to missing out on the big trio of pitching free agents, they also failed to bring back Pablo Sandoval or sign Yasmany Tomas.

Peavy's return should at least solidify San Francisco's top three in the starting rotation. Along with anchor Madison Bumgarner and 39-year-old veteran Tim Hudson, it's a competitive group. But there are concerns, too, mainly centering around the health of Matt Cain, who missed the 2014 championship run after having bone chips

removed from his right elbow.

If Cain is slow to return to health or his previous production, the pressure could be on Tim Lincecum to produce a bounce back season. Given his up and down production over the past two seasons, ranging from a pair of no-hitters to a pair of outright demotions to the bullpen, it's a risky proposition. But given the information that Ben Zobrist is general manager Brian Sabean's top trade priority, it seems he's now content taking the risk.

As for Shields and Scherzer, nei-

ther has been strongly linked to a team recently, but both should still have plenty of suitors left. Shields in particular could see his market heat up quickly with the starting pitching market thinning. The Boston Red Sox, who missed out on Jon Lester themselves, and the New York Yankees, who lost both Hiroki Kuroda and Brandon McCarthy, are probably the teams worth watching closely.

With that said though, the market has proven unpredictable because general managers are getting more creative than ever in resetting their rosters. It's difficult to count anyone out of the sweepstakes.

Mavericks rout LeBron-less Cavs



CLEVELAND (AP)— While the wins keep piling up for the Dallas Mavericks, all the Cavaliers keep adding are injuries.

Monta Ellis scored 20 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 15 and the Mavericks won their fifth straight game Sunday, a 109-90 victory over the Cavaliers, whose news on the injury front gets worse by the day.

Cleveland again played without LeBron James, who is out with knee and back soreness. Kyrie Irving left in the third quarter with lower back tightness and won't make the trip to Philadelphia for Monday night's game.

"I'm in a lot of pain right now," said Irving, who missed two games last week with a sore left knee. "I just have to get through it. It stinks because you have two injuries at one time."

Irving, who scored a season-low six points and was 2 of 9 from the field, said the injuries aren't related.

As his team raised its record to 25-10, Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle recognized the Cavaliers are far from full strength.

"This is the kind of team we've got to beat," he said. "They're without the best player in the world and lost one of the best point guards in the league. They were already down bodies when Kyrie went out, but I really did think it was a harder game than the score indicated."

James missed his fourth game in a row and fifth of the season. The Cavaliers are 1-4 when the four-time MVP doesn't play and have dropped 5 of 7 overall.

Nowitzki has 27,397 career points and is 12 shy of tying Moses Malone for seventh place all-time.

Kevin Love scored a season-high 30 points, but the Cavaliers couldn't stay with the Mavericks, who had six players in double figures.

Before the game, Cavaliers general manager David Griffin said speculation about coach David Blatt's job status was "ridiculous" and added no change would be made.

The Mavericks, who wrap up this three-game trip Monday in Brooklyn, are 10-0 on the road against the Eastern Conference this season and have won 14 straight overall against the East.

Dallas went ahead for good late in the first quarter and built a 57-42 lead two minutes before halftime. The margin grew to 20 in the third.

Chandler Parsons, Tyson Chandler and J.J. Barea scored 14 points apiece for Dallas, which shot 56 percent and made 12 of 26 3-pointers.

Rajon Rondo, who scored a season-high 29 points Friday against Boston, was held to four points and had eight assists in 27 minutes. Dallas is 6-2 since acquiring Rondo from the Celtics.

"We get out and run, so I love it," Ellis said. "He's a great floor general at both ends of the court. We're doing good, but we can do better. We made the extra pass today, and when we move the basketball like that, we can put teams in a bind."

Carlisle used nine players between 18 and 29 minutes, and the Mavericks had 30 assists with only 10 turnovers.

"It went great," Chandler said. "Everyone understands what we're trying to accomplish out there. Coach is doing a great job running bodies in and out, keeping everyone fresh."

Blatt was displeased with his team's defense. "Certainly not good enough," he said. "The other night we played great defensively, tonight we did not. We didn't play the kind of defense we needed to play against any team, certainly not Dallas."

Lakers 88, Pacers 87

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant has gradually accepted that it's a good idea to miss a few games this season to keep his 36-year-old body in top shape for the rest of the Los Angeles Lakers' schedule.

With a day off coming up, he put everything into another vintage late-game performance against the Indiana Pacers.

Bryant scored 20 points and hit the go-ahead short jumper with 12.4 seconds to play, leading the Lakers to an 88-87 comeback victory Sunday night.

Bryant is learning to accept his 36-year-old body's limitations, and he agreed with coach Byron Scott's decision to leave him home from Monday's game at Portland. While playing just 32 minutes against Indiana, Bryant scored nine points in the final 2:32 after the Lakers rallied from a 13-point deficit in the second half.

"I have many faults, but one of my strengths is that I can be realistic and that I can build around that," Bryant said. "I have to understand my weaknesses, what I can't do, accept it and

then try to dominate."

It wasn't utter domination, but resilience: Bryant hit a contested 3-pointer from the corner to put the Lakers up 84-82 with 2 minutes to play, but Solomon Hill answered with a 3-pointer for the Pacers, who repeatedly grabbed key offensive rebounds. Bryant then missed a 3-footer with 50 seconds left, but buried the winning 4-footer.

He has missed several potential go-ahead shots in the final seconds this season, but Kobe still isn't flinching in the clutch.

"I've hit plenty of them in my day," Bryant said with a laugh. "I think the city of L.A. is a little spoiled by it."

Nick Young also scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for the Lakers.

Roy Hibbert missed a difficult jumper off a broken play as time expired to end the Lakers' third win in 10 games.

"Not too good," Hibbert said about the Pacers' final play. "I don't think the shot that I took was the shot we drew up."

Heat 88, Nets 84

In Miami, Chris Bosh scored 26 points, Dwyane Wade scored 10 of his 25 points in the final minutes and the Heat held off Brooklyn to snap a four-game losing streak.

Hassan Whiteside had 11 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks off the bench for Miami, which won for only the seventh time in 19 home games.

Joe Johnson scored 19, Brook Lopez added 16 and Mirza Teletovic had 14 for Brooklyn, which had won six of seven and was seeking to get back over .500 for the first time since Nov. 12.

Pistons 114, Kings 95

In Auburn Hills, Brandon Jennings scored 35 points as the Pistons beat the Kings for their fifth straight win.

Andre Drummond had 15 points and 14 rebounds and Greg Monroe had 14 points 11 rebounds for Detroit, which improved to 5-0 since Josh Smith was released in December. Detroit is 10-23.

DeMarcus Cousins led the Kings with 18 points and 15 rebounds.

Suns 125, Raptors 109

In Phoenix, Eric Bledsoe scored 20 points, fellow guards Goran Dragic and Isaiah Thomas added 18 apiece and the Suns handed the Raptors their second straight blowout loss.

Seven Suns hit double figures in the team's highest-scoring non-overtime game this season.

The Raptors, who trailed by as many as 19 points in the first half and 27 in the second, finished a season-long six-game road trip with their two most one-sided losses of the season.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 21 and Kyle Lowry 19 for the Raptors. Lou Williams and James Johnson added 17 apiece.

Phoenix won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Bucks 95 Knicks 82

In New York, Zaza Pachulia had 16 points and 14 rebounds as the Milwaukee Bucks handed the New York Knicks their 11th straight loss.

Tim Hardaway, Jr. had 17 points for the Knicks (5-31), who lost a franchise-record 10th straight home game. They are one overall loss from matching the team's 1985 record for most consecutive losses.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 16 points and 12 rebounds for Milwaukee (18-17).

SIDEBAR

GM Griffin: Blatt is staying as Cavs coach

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavaliers general manager David Griffin said David Blatt will remain the team's head coach and that no change will be made.

Griffin, speaking to reporters before Sunday's game against Dallas, called scrutiny about Blatt's job status "ridiculous" and said he isn't giving the rookie head coach a vote of confidence because "he never needed one."

Griffin also took issue with reports that LeBron James, who is sidelined with knee and back soreness, is unhappy with Blatt and said the narrative about the coach's job is over.

"It's a non-story," Griffin said. "Coach Blatt is our coach. He's going to remain our coach."

Griffin disagreed with the idea that James isn't supporting Blatt, talk that began in earnest last week. When the four-time MVP was asked if Blatt was the right coach for the team, he said. "Yeah, he's our coach, I mean, what other coach do we have?" Pressed about endorsing Blatt, James said, "Listen man, I don't pay no bills around here. I play."

Griffin pointed out that James made positive comments about Blatt during that media session.

"I heard the entire audio file of LeBron James' comments," Griffin said. "No more than three different times he said, 'we are growing together every day, the team grows together every day and I am happy with who we have at the helm.' But that wasn't a sexy pull quote so we kept looking for something else until we could pull something that sounded negative," Griffin said. "That narrative is done. No change is being made, period."

The Cavaliers, considered one of the favorites to win the NBA title when the season began after James returned to Cleveland and the team traded for All-Star forward Kevin Love, are 19-14 and sit in fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Griffin said he knew going into the season that the Cavaliers would be under intense scrutiny and added, "We're like traveling with the Beatles."

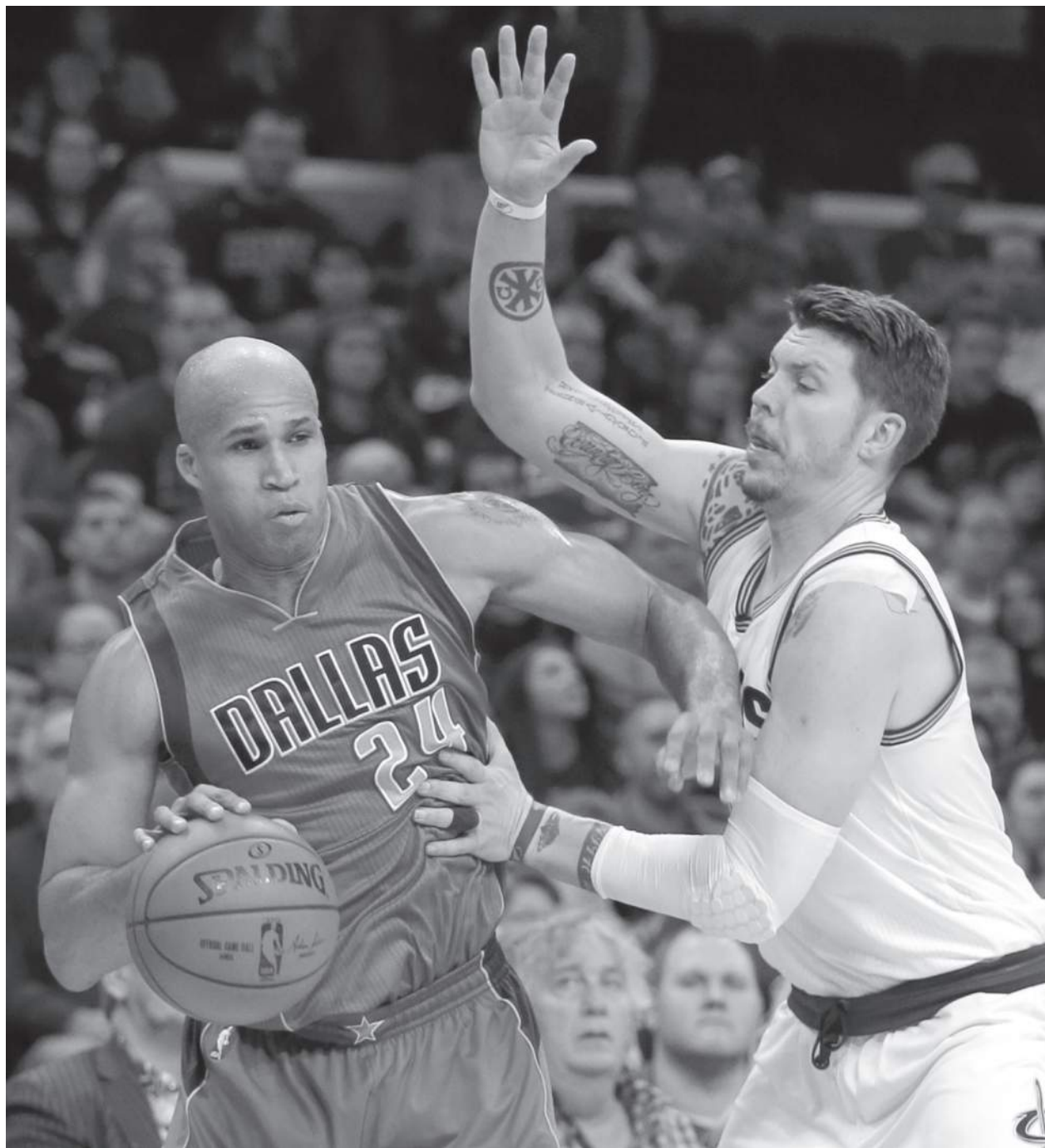
Griffin hopes James, who is scheduled to be examined again by team doctors Wednesday, will return during the team's upcoming West Coast road trip.

"If it was up to him he'd play tomorrow," Griffin said. "The guy's a warrior."

Blatt said James did not attend Sunday's game and will not make the trip to Philadelphia for Monday night's game on advice from the team's medical staff.

Injuries have been a factor for the Cavaliers. James missed his fifth game Sunday and center Anderson Varejao is out for the season with a torn Achilles tendon. Kyrie Irving won't make the trip to Philadelphia for Monday night's game because of lower back tightness that forced him out of the game Sunday.

Love, Shawn Marion and Matthew Dellavedova have also missed time with injuries.



Dallas Mavericks' Richard Jefferson, left, drives past Cleveland Cavaliers' Mike Miller during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, in Cleveland.

Alabama's season marred by vulnerable defense



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Defense let Alabama down at times after years of powering the Crimson Tide to wins and titles.

The result was a team that got caught up in a couple of shootouts, gave up too many big plays and finally succumbed to Ohio State 42-35 in the playoff semifinals Thursday night in New Orleans. With Lane Kiffin's offense piling up yards and points, this wasn't vintage Alabama, except for the winning and contending.

Tide coach Nick Saban's team fell short of the national championship game and a shot at its fourth title in six years. The group might actually have overachieved in winning 12 games and the Southeastern Conference title simply because of a defense and offensive

line that weren't as dominant as they had been in recent years.

"This team excelled all year long," Saban said. "They kept Alabama in the forefront of college football everywhere in the country, based on the hard work and the improvement that they made throughout the season. So I'm very proud of what this team was able to accomplish."

Alabama's unprecedented six-year run as the league's top defense ended, and the Tide ranked 58th nationally defending the pass.

Then Blake Sims, who hadn't been prone to big mistakes, threw three interceptions in both the regular-season finale against Auburn and the Sugar Bowl.

"We turned the ball over a lot," tailback T.J. Yeldon said. "It killed us last year. It killed us this year. Coming into

a bowl game, you've got to take care of the ball."

Now come 'Bama's two offseason rituals: The wait to see which juniors will leave to enter the NFL draft and how many blue-chip recruits sign with the Tide.

Wide receiver Amari Cooper, who was third in the Heisman Trophy voting, and All-America safety Landon Collins both are considered likely first-round picks. Yeldon is also among the other highly rated players who could turn pro.

Sims, Cooper and the offense all put up big numbers for the Tide during Kiffin's first season as offensive coordinator. It was a dynamic pairing of Kiffin's offense and the Saban/Kirby Smart-led defense.

The defense didn't fully hold up its end of the bargain for a change. Alabama allowed 226 passing yards

a game and 19 touchdowns. The Tide was the nation's only team that hadn't allowed an opposing back to top 90 yards all season before Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliott ran for 230 yards and two touchdowns.

The Tide also had its five-year streak of leading the SEC in scoring defense ended by LSU. Alabama led the nation in that category in 2011 and 2012, but gave up 18.4 points a game this season, more than double the 2011 yield of 8.2 points.

Elliott put the Buckeyes up by 14 points with an 85-yard run late in the fourth quarter.

"We gave up far too many big plays in the game, which has been a problem for us toward the end of the year," Saban said.

Presumably, Alabama will still be regarded as among the favorites in the SEC and nationally going into next season.

SBL umpires meeting today

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifo is asking all umpires to attend tonight's meeting at 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Ground rules and other technical matters for the upcoming season is the main topic for discussion.

Rogolifo said that newly certified umpires Roman Borja and AJ Murig must also attend the said meeting.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, Rogolifo will hold a separate meeting with the managers and coaches of the seven participating teams in the new SBL season. The meeting is also set at 5:30pm at the Ada gym conference room.

He also reminded all teams to secure their respective sponsors, submit their 25-member rosters, pay the \$1,000 entrance fee, and acquire their complete uniforms. Players are also required to turn in waiver forms, which are already available at the NMSA office inside the Ada Gym and will be distributed at coaches/managers meeting.

Defending champions Brewers lead this year's SBL cast and will be ran by new manager Joey Dela Cruz. The Brewers will go for their third straight SBL title against the Raena Camacho-managed Northern Yankees, the Fielders of Pat Tenorio, Jon Tenorio's North Starz, the Franco Flores-handled A's, Froilan Camacho's Jets, and the Doru Camacho-coached Falcons.

The Brewers will open their season on Jan. 12, Monday, against the Fielders at 6:30pm at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

In other opening week schedule, the North Starz will play against the A's on Jan. 14, Wednesday; the Jets will take on the Falcons on Jan. 16, Friday; and the Yankees will make their debut against the North Starz on Jan. 19.

For more information, call Rogolifo at 234-6672.

Gechig earns 'Master Player' recognition



The Veterans' J.R. Gechig was named "Master Player" after completing all the scoring techniques in the ongoing Rocball league.

Gechig earned the distinction as he scored a goal in the Veterans' 48-13 juiced out win over the Teachers late last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The "Master Player" recognition is given to player who has

scored at least one ace, xunk, kee, jam, and goal.

"Earning the title isn't easy. The average number of Rocball players able to complete all the scoring techniques of Rocball is about one per season. And Rocball seasons are usually 50 games plus the semifinals and championship games," Rocball creator James Feger said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

In other Rocball league news, Oba Squirt pulled off a double-overtime win over Get Very Determined.

The Oba Squirt and Get Very Determined were forced to play an extended game after the former won the all-important fourth set and the latter still had the lead in regulation.

In Rocball, a leading team can only win a game if it also prevails in the fourth set. If the leading squad loses



Gechig

the fourth set, the match will go to overtime with the trailing team needing to prevail twice to steal the victory and the former only once to save the win.

The first team to get 7 points in overtime wins the match and Oba Squirt completed its comeback bid after taking both OT games. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

WE DON'T

From Page 28

Barnes is off-island, but is expected to return to Saipan this week

"I've been communicating with Kurt through email and he still needs to go through the documents that we submitted to Northern Marianas Housing Corp.," the NMSA executive director added.

NMSA has completed all the paperwork required by the NMHC, which will later give the clearance to begin the project.

"We already gave NMHC the figures and they will inform us immediately on how to proceed with the project."

Rogolifo said that NMSA is hoping to begin the bidding process by mid January with the winning contractor tasks to remove the old track surface and replace it with a new one.

"Once we get the clearance, renovation of the track will go in full swing. And hopefully renovation will start by March or earlier," said Rogolifo.

At least two months are needed for the actual process of putting the adhesive and laying out the track. The winning contractor needs to make sure the

adhesive dries accordingly before putting down the new track surface.

A Community Development Block Grant from NMHC is funding the resurfacing of the track, which continues to have black patches and bubbles forming on the decades-old facility.

Rogolifo, in an earlier interview, said that they would stick with the amount given for the project by carefully monitoring their expenses to avoid going beyond the money appropriated. NMSA, which declined to divulge the amount of the project for now, wants to make

sure there won't be any discrepancy on the figures they submitted to NMHC for a smooth bidding process.

Once the resurfacing project is completed, NMSA aims to open the track facility by May in time for several events organized by Northern Marianas Athletics, which is planning to bid for the hosting rights for the 2017 Micronesian Athletics Championships. The new track oval, which will have a light blue color and not the usual pinkish-red hue, will also serve as one of the facilities when the CNMI hosts the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Nakashima Nakashima top-scored for the Ol'Aces with his 10 points, while four of his teammates contributed at least 6 points apiece. Adrian De Luna and Tristan Montes added 8 markers apiece and E.J. Ermitanio and Dave Bucayo had 6 apiece. Bucayo registered all his points in the second half and 4 of the Ol'Aces' last 6 points to foil Sun Palace's repeated comeback bids.

Sun Palace was forced to rally on several occasions as it trailed right at the get-go with the Ol'Aces enjoying an 8-point lead at the break, 25-17. Na-

kashima led the Ol'Aces in the first 20 minutes of play, firing 8 points, while Montes added 6.

Aaron Pamintuan was the lone Sun Palace player to hit more than one field goal in the first half, allowing the Ol'Aces to take control of the match. His teammates began stepping up in the second half, but the Ol'Aces converted timely baskets to withstand Sun Palace's runs.

In the second boys division match, Kobe Mendoza powered Rollers 1 to a 70-62 win over the Sonics.

Mendoza sizzled for 21 points to hand Rollers 1 a 2-0 record. Mike Arciaga and Angelo Factor backed him up, adding 12 markers apiece.

Jaymark De Guzman led the Sonics' losing cause with his 20 markers. The Sonics fell to a 1-1 slate.

Mendoza dropped 13 of his total output in the first half, including Rollers' 1 last 6 markers in that period to give his team a 40-31 lead. Rollers 1 kept it safe distance against the Sonics in the second half with Mendoza drawing help from Factor and Arciaga.

Meanwhile, in the final women's division game last Saturday, Armatech eased past Sun Palace Hotel, 49-30.

Armatech remained undefeated in four games to retain the top spot in the six-team field, while Sun Palace is still winless after five matches.

Lalaine Pagarao and Chevy Kate Alipio starred in Armatech's 19-point win, registering 15 points each, while no Sun Palace player broke into twin digits as Shaina Abadilla managed to earn only 8 markers.

FRIDAY First Game

Ol'Aces 48—Nakashima 10, De Luna 8, Montes 8, Ermitanio 6, Bucayo 6, Castillo 4, Miller 2, Leowel Cristobal 2, Leonard Cristobal 2.

Sun Palace 45—Pamintuan 14, Manalili 8, Edralin 7, Capuyon 5, Benavente 3, Ocaya 2, Gabaldon 2, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-17, 48-45.

Second Game

Rollers 1 70—Mendoza 21, Arciaga 12, Factor 12, Cayading 7, Fidelino 6, Malonzo 4, Camacho 3, Iglecias 2, Espinosa 1.

Sonics 62—De Guzman 20, Aranda 14, Flores 11, Feria 5, Manzano 4, Alegre 3, Javier 3, Villanueva 2.

Scoring by halves: 40-31, 70-62.

SATURDAY

Armatech 49—Pagarao 15, Alipio 15, Abrams 6, Fleming 6, Castillo 3, Aldan 2, Alferos 2, Yiu 2.

Sun Palace 30—Abadilla 8, Castro 6, Francisco 4, Lumabi 4, C. Avelino 4, Cardinio 2, Tamang 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-14, 49-30.

4 TEAMS

From Page 28

hind by only one, 3-4.

The Lil Rascals took the slim lead after the first 20 minutes of play behind the hat-trick of Mark Esalan. Taka Borja logged the other goal for the Lil Rascals in the first half. In the second half, the Lil Rascal failed to keep the lead and settled for the draw, as they registered only one goal, courtesy of Esalan's shot.

The other draw in last weekend's matches happened in the boys U15 division game that featured Real Crispy

Pata and Astig Futsal.

Astig Futsal seemed on its way to an easy win when it took a 3-0 lead in the first half, but Real Crispy Pata fought back in the final frame after also tallying three goals.

Clayton Izuka, Cody Leon, and Keanu Diaz notched one goal apiece for Crispy Pata to even up the match, while Anthony Fruit, Steve Leung, and Hark Galarian were the scorers for Astig Futsal in the first half.

In other results last Friday, Team Betde and Lady Blues downed sepa-

rate opponents.

In the other co-ed U12 tiff, Team Betde outclassed Sisig United, 10-6.

Thaiph Austria and John Michael Rojas took turns in leading Team Betde to another victory. Austria started things out for Team Betde, firing four goals in the first half, which ended with his team threatening a breakaway, 5-1. Angelo Bergancia nailed the other goal for team Betde, while Rinto Takahashi was the lone Sisig United player to make it to the board in the first half.

In the second and final half, Rojas took over from Austria, as the former

knocked in four goals. Austria added one more to complete Team Betde's domination. Sisig United matched Team Betde's five goals in the second half after getting two apiece from Takahashi and Rintaro Miyawaki and one from Jon Villagomez.

In the girls U15 game, Lady Blues topped the Orange Rangers, 9-3.

Lady Blues cruised to victory after going all out in the second half. Lady Blues led by only one at the break, 2-1, but pulled away in the second half when it drew goals from seven different players.

Angela Carreon and Diana Maniacop were among the scorers for Lady Blues in the second half and they also drilled on goal apiece in the opening 20 minutes of the match. Katrina Costales, Jerlyn Castillo, De Jana Muna, Jasmine Phan, and Negahr Rastguiry also hit the board for Lady Blues in the second half.

Paulyn Grace Joyce led Orange Rangers with her two goals in the second half, but did not get the much needed support from his teammates. Only two Orange Rangers scored against the Lady Blues with Princess Alcantara recording one in the first half.

Lightning vs Vikings in CFL Youth League

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Two Northern Vikings players try to block Eastern Lightning quarterback Donavin Ada during their game in the Commonwealth Football League Association's 2014 Youth Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.



An Eastern Lightning player fails to intercept the ball after a throw from Northern Vikings quarterback Anthony Quitugua, right. Kimo Angailen, 95, later sacked Quitugua.



The Eastern Lightning's Augustine Aguon, 30, attempts to bring down a Northern Vikings player, while Derrick Aguon, 4, provides the block.



The Eastern Lightning's Kimo Angailen, 95, Anthony Tenorio, 73, and Michael Jones, 75, try to get past the Northern Vikings' defensive line.



Michael Jones, 75, grabs a Northern Vikings player, partly hidden, while their teammates look on.



The Northern Vikings' Jacob Yamagishi, 55, tries to tackle an Eastern Lightning player, while his teammates Kimo Lizama, 50, and Livingston Sigrah, 60, look on. Anthony Tenorio, left, tries to chase Lizama and Sigrah.



The Northern Vikings' Derrick Aguon, 4, Don Pangelinan, 99, and Dean Joshua Mendiola, 73, try to prevent Augustine Aguon, right, and Joseph Magofna, 58, from getting to Neldreyton Skera, 76.



Don Pangelinan, 99, surveys the field before attempting to rush.



Mariano Kaipat, left, tries to run toward the goal as his teammates block Eastern Lightning players.



The Eastern Lightning's Anthony Tenorio, 73, and two of his teammates prepare to block the path of the Northern Vikings' Anthony Quitugua.



**Mavericks
rout LeBron-
less Cavs**

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**Romo, Cowboys
rally past Lion
in wild card**

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JON PEREZ

Bubbles that deformed the Oleai track oval can be seen around the decade-old facility. Northern Marianas Sports Association is working to have the track regain its Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations.

'We don't want to delay track resurfacing'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi doesn't want to further delay the resurfacing of the Oleai track and field facility to avoid the rainy season, which usually starts in June.

Rogolifoi added that getting the facility back to its Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations is their top priority. "Further delay would cost us. We don't want to delay this project because we're trying to



avoid the rainy season. Renovating this facility is our top priority this year," Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday. Rogolifoi said that he is in constant communication with NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes regarding the project.

See **WE DON'T** on **Page 26**

Ol'Aces, Rollers 1 outclass foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces and Rollers 1 prevailed in their respective boys U18 matches in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces were pitted against Sun Palace Hotel and eked out a 48-45 victory for the former's first win in two games. The Ol'Aces dropped their opener against the Sonics late last month.

See **OL'ACES** on **Page 26**

The Ol'Aces' Leonardo Cristobal, 15, plays tough defense on the Sonics' Gerald Flores, while their teammates jockey for position during their game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. The Ol'Aces and Sonics had mixed fortunes last Friday with the former winning over Sun Palace, 48-45, and the latter losing to Rollers 1, 62-70.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Lady Blues player steps on the ball, while a Girly Flowers & Rainbows defender keeps a close eye on her during their game in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

4 teams settle for draws in futsal tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Competition in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament is getting tougher as two matches last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex ended in draws.

In one of the two co-ed U12 games, the Lil Rascals and

Orange Rangers engaged in a standoff, 5-5.

The Orange Rangers forced a deadlock after collecting two goals in the second half. Ian Lubao and Merrick Toves scored the two goals for the Orange Rangers in the final half. Toves earlier had a brace in the first half, while John Mark Anastacio added one to keep the Orange Rangers in the match, as they were be-

See **4 TEAMS** on **Page 26**